WORLD / A24

Poland's president picks identical twin brother as new PM

NEWS / A2

Board of generals giving GMA free hand in choice of new AFP chief of staff

NEWS / A4

Over 100 killed in 7 simultaneous train blasts in India

2BU! / C2

2 movies, hot snacks, other things rocking the Pinoy youth

2 expert lip readers solve Zidane head butt

KAYA NAMAN PALA...

LONDON—"SON OF A terrorist whore . . . so just f*** off!"

Two British newspapers on Tuesday claimed that expert lip readers had solved the mystery of what Italy's Marco

2 EXPERT/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, July 12, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 214 P18 website: www.inq7.net

SWS: Dissatisfaction with GMA decreasing

STILL NEGATIVE BUT IMPROVING.

The net satisfaction rating of President Macapagal-Arroyo rose 12 points to -13, with 34 percent of Filipinos saying they were satisfied with her performance and 48 percent saying they were not, according to a recent survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS).

The President's rating has gone up the past

SWS/ A6

'Senga waited 2 hours'

AFP report details timeline of Feb. 24 plot

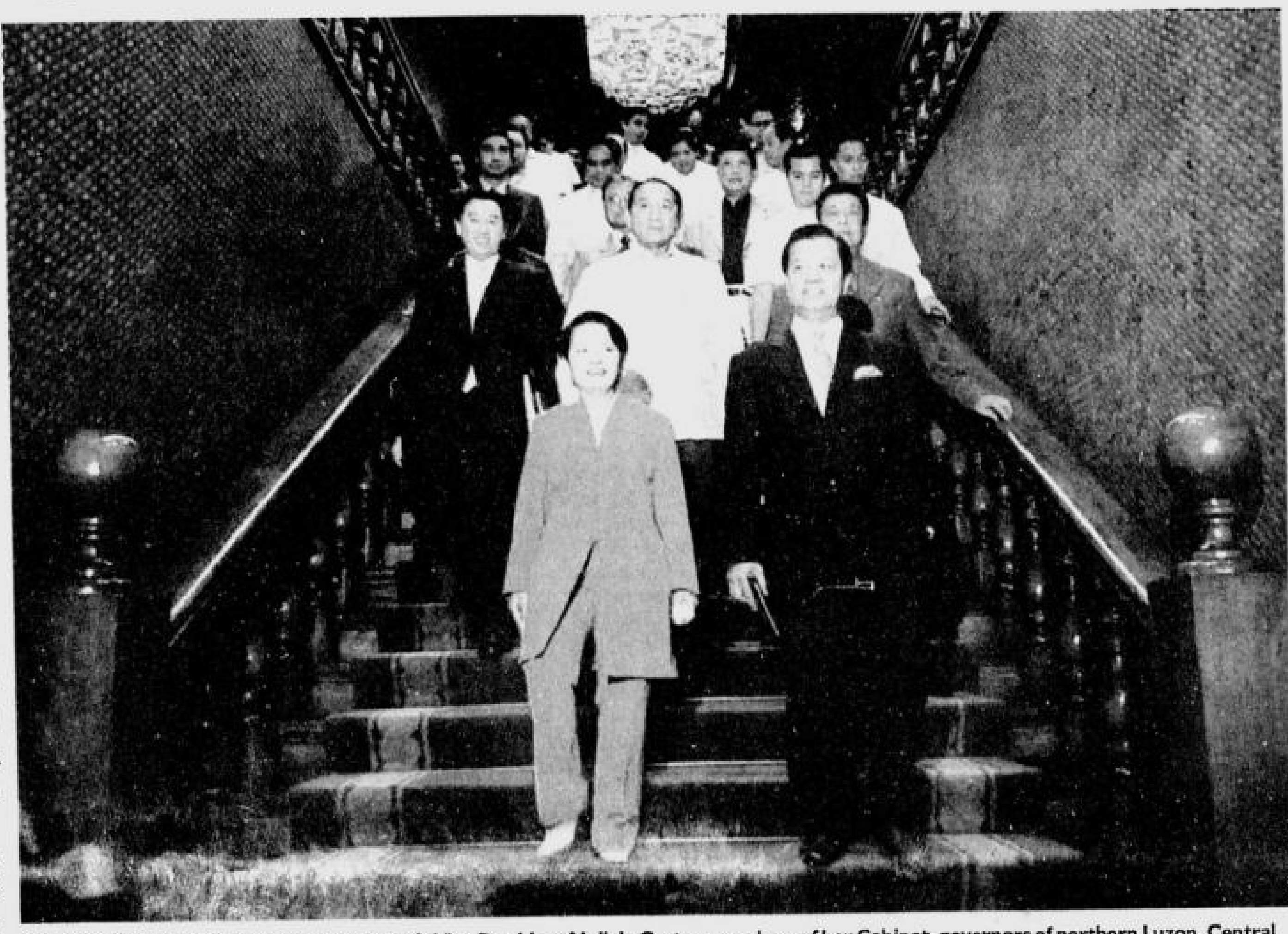
By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ARMED FORCES CHIEF of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga waited nearly two hours before he convened his top brass to deal with rebellious officers urging him to join them in withdrawing support from President Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 24, a draft report of a military investigative panel said.

The report did not say whether Senga immediately reported the plot to Ms Arroyo.

The unsigned report confirmed earlier INQUIRER accounts surrounding what Ms Arroyo described in her declaration of a national state of emergency on that fateful day as a leftist and rightist conspiracy to oust her.

SENGA/ A8



GRAND ENTRANCE: President Arroyo leads Vice President Noli de Castro, members of her Cabinet, governors of northern Luzon, Central Luzon and Mindanao on the way to the joint Cabinet and Regional Development Council meeting at the Palace on Tuesday.

Malacañang distributed cash to bishops

By Christian V. Esguerra

LIKE MANNA DROPPING FROM heaven, envelopes containing between P20,000 and P30,000 in cash were purportedly offered to a number of bishops during the recent retreat and plenary assembly of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Asked yesterday about the purported doles tipped off to the INQUIRER, one bishop admitted to being handed an envelope by a "casual-looking" man who had introduced himself as a messenger "from Malacañang."

The bishop, a soft-spoken and low-key member of the CBCP and based in one of the country's poorest dioceses, said he was offended but politely rejected the envelope.

"It was revolting. I felt insulted. *Medyo garapal,*" he said, adding that earlier this year, he had also

MALACAÑANG/ A18

New PSG chief is intel expert

By Christine O. Avendano

AN AIR FORCE OFFICER WITH A long experience in intelligence work is the new chief of President Macapagal-Arroyo's security force.

Col. Romeo Prestoza, current deputy chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), will take over today from Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit as head of the Presidential Security Group (PSG).

Prestoza is a classmate of Bangit at the Philippine Military Academy and both belong to Class 1978.

NEW PSG/ A6

ERAP'S NEW NEIGHBOR

Lim moved to maximum security jail

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan
and Margaux C. Ortiz

CLAIMING SOME GROUPS EITHER planned to harm him or rescue him, Army authorities clamped Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim in a heavy security stockade last night, hours after the sacked Scout Ranger commander defended his video tape declaring his withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lim was transferred from Fort Bonifacio, where he had been restricted to quarters, to a maximum security military facility in Tanay, Rizal—making him a neighbor of detained former President Joseph Estrada, who is held just across the street.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon ordered Lim's transfer "after receiving reports that some groups are planning to inflict harm on Lim or to spring him out to prevent him from testifying," Army spokersperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said.

Before the transfer, Lim appeared at the National Bureau of Investigation, denied involvement in any coup plot and said his declaration on video renouncing his support of Ms Arroyo had, in fact, thwarted plans by soldiers to overthrow her.

The former commander of the elite First Scout Rangers Regiment also said he never hid the existence of the video tape showing him reading a statement and calling Ms Arroyo a bogus president, but said the tape was "illegally obtained."

"*Nakatulong pa nga yun para huwag ituloy ng mga batang official yung plano nila kung mayroon man na coup or pagaalsa* (It even helped convince the young officers not to push through with their plans to launch a coup, if they had such plans, all)," Lim told reporters after appearing before NBI officials.

He added: "It convinced them that there are other means be-

LIM/ A8

REM ZAMORA

SUMMONED: Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim arrives at the NBI for questioning on his alleged involvement in the Feb. 24 coup plot.

CBCP: From 'we reject' to 'not inclined'

By Christian V. Esguerra

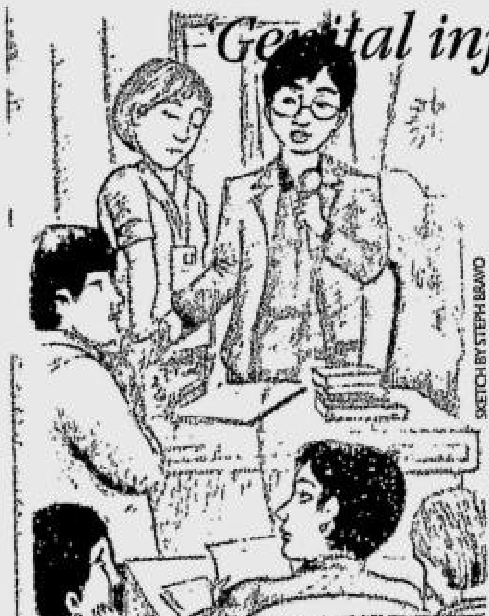
THE SOUND AND FURY WHICH critics claim are missing in the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' pastoral statement on Monday can be probably gleaned from how the prelates deliberated.

There were no spirited debates behind the statement, titled "Shepherding and Prophesying in Hope," that marked deliberations in July 2005 when the CBCP stayed away from calls that President Macapagal-Arroyo step aside over claims she rigged the 2004 election but that she should not ignore them altogether.

The only point of contention during the plenary over the weekend was the latest impeachment case against the President, according to a CBCP insider famil-

CBCP/ A18

'Genital injuries consistent' with rape



SKETCH BY STEPH BRAVO

THE DEFENSE tries to discredit expert witness Raquel Fortun citing her alleged bias due to her active advocacy of women's rights.

By Volt Contreras
and Tarra V. Quismundo

THE EXPERT WITNESS PRESENTed in court yesterday by the prosecution in the Subic rape case maintained that the genital injuries of the complainant were "consistent" with her claim of sexual violation.

Dr. Raquel Fortun, a leading forensic pathologist, echoed the observations earlier made by Dr. Rolando Ortiz, the medico-legal officer who had examined the alleged rape victim.

Bringing a stack of about 15 books and journals with her to the stand, Fortun was asked by private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua for her opinion on Ortiz's findings on "Nicole," particularly on the contusions found on her limbs and private parts.

"If [sexual intercourse] is nonconsensual, genital injuries would be consistent," said Fortun, citing passages from her reference materials, including handbooks on sexual assault investigation.

She conceded that injuries could also occur during consensual sex, but said these would be "unusual" because a willing woman would assume a position that would make her not only "relaxed" but also "receptive" to her partner.

Contrary to the schedule previously agreed on, Nicole did not return to the stand yesterday.

Prosecutors asked Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon at the start of the hearing to let them call back Fortun and take advantage of her available time.

The Filipino complainant is ex-

GENITAL/ A8

'Bishops pushing people to stage people power'

By Norman Bordadora

AFTER THE COUNTRY'S ROMAN Catholic bishops expressed lack of faith in current moves to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo, what now?

Two of the country's legal experts yesterday portrayed two possible scenarios in the country's search for the truth behind the allegations that Ms Arroyo cheated in the 2004 election.

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga said the statement of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines that it could not support current impeachment moves could leave people with no choice but to stage another People Power revolution.

Former Commission on Elections Chair Christian Monsod, a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, said that next year's mid-term elections were another way out of the political impasse.

Monsod is a convenor of the civil society group One Voice, one of the groups which the CBCP in its statement commended for nonpartisanhip.

"The bishops may be pushing the people to stage another people power. The bishops are virtually telling the people there is no more hope," Salonga said in an interview at the offices of his lawyers' watchdog group Kilosbayan.

Salonga, a Protestant leader, agreed with the bishops that the impeachment process in the country was far from perfect.

He, however, said that it was the last

BISHOPS/ A18

Second FRONT PAGE
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience occasional rains with gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. Rest of Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/07/11/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Stormy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Esperon heads list of bets for top AFP post

By Julie S. Alipala and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD OF GENERALS (BOG) WANTS to give President Macapagal-Arroyo a free hand in choosing her next Armed Forces chief of staff, according to outgoing military chief Gen. Generoso Senga.

"I cannot say who will replace me. There are many candidates, those with the service commands and those who are already senior officers," Senga said during a weekend visit to Zamboanga City.

The BOG members are Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes, Navy chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga, Army chief Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Armed Forces vice chief Lt. Gen. Rafael Romero, deputy vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Christie Datu and Senga.

Ms Arroyo is set to hold pow-wows with her top generals before announcing her choice for the successor of Senga who will retire on July 21.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said yesterday that "the President would meet with her top generals maybe collectively and individually" in the coming days to tell them what she wanted in her next chief of staff as well as to personally assess their individual visions for the military's future.

4 candidates

Defensor said the top four candidates being considered for the plum post are: Esperon, Reyes, Mayuga and Romero.

He said the President's top priority in choosing Senga's successor was the continued implementation of the program to professionalize the military after two decades of numerous adventurism and mutiny attempts.

He added that the President would pay close attention to how they plan to carry out the objective of professionalizing the military and whether the troops would follow him on this "high road."

While individual competence and leadership in the service would be considered brownie points for the aspirants, Defensor said loyalty especially to the Constitution and the chain-of-command ("not necessarily to the President") was critical.

Esperon, who often displayed his loyalty to Ms Arroyo and who played a decisive role in quashing a coup plot in February, was seen in military circles as the leading candidate. *With a report from Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Lt. San Juan to tell all

Magdalo financiers known Friday, says Army chief

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—DETAINED First Lt. Lawrence San Juan will reveal on Friday the alleged financiers of the Magdalo group of renegade soldiers, Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said here on Monday.

"We will present to you Lt. San Juan probably this Friday," Esperon told reporters here following the opening of the war games between the Philippine and Malaysian armies.

Esperon declined to give details on what the Magdalo officer had so far divulged. "Please wait for that so we could all have the papers with us," he said.

San Juan, one of four rebel soldiers who escaped from Fort Bonifacio, was re-arrested in February this year in Batangas.

In the same interview, Esperon did not hide his displeasure when asked how he felt about sacked Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim's withdrawal of support for President Macapagal-Arroyo, as shown in a video tape.

"Of course, when you break the chain of command, that is a violation of the Articles of War," he added. "Insubordination is a violation. Disrespect is a violation. Inciting to mutiny is a violation," Esperon said.

Lim used to head the First Scout Rangers Regiment in Camp Tecson in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez met with Lim yesterday afternoon at the former's office.

But Gonzalez opted not to divulge what the controversial military officer said during their two-hour meeting.

"He was telling me information that are confidential in nature ... but what he said carries a lot of weight," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Asked whether Lim said something about the key characters—mid-level Cabinet men, politicians and businessmen—who allegedly plotted and financed the aborted coup, Gonzalez opted to skirt the question.

"In time we can concretize things ... We must look for collaborative statements or evidence. All things are being evaluated and appreciated," he said, adding, however, that what Lim said came from the "mouth of a credible witness."

According to him, Lim had agreed to "cooperate for the sake of the truth."

Gonzalez said that Lim was also unhappy that the tape where he was shown withdrawing support from the President was "leaked" and he wanted the National Bureau of Investigation to find out who gave the tape to television station ABS-CBN.

Gonzalez also said they did not discuss the possibility of Lim turning into a state witness, saying if he had offered Lim such option in their first meeting, the latter might feel insulted.

Last Monday, Gonzalez said he was not ruling out the possibility of getting Lim as state witness to pin down the brains and financiers of the Feb. 24 aborted coup attempt against the Arroyo administration.

"It would depend on the gravity of his (Lim) case. We cannot rule out anybody . . . depending on one's liability," Gonzalez had said. *With a report from Armand N. Nocum*

REVISITED, the house on Adler Street in Filinvest 2 in Quezon City yielded more evidence against Magdalo soldiers and two civilian supporters. RAFFY LERMA

Magdalo officer to squeal on comrades, says prober

By Luige A. del Puerto, Armand Nocum and Tarra V. Quismundo

A MEMBER OF THE MAGDALO GROUP HAS turned his back on his former colleagues and has opted to cooperate with authorities, a senior investigator said yesterday.

Police said Lt. Patricio Bumidang, one of six rogue soldiers arrested in a raid in Quezon City, has expressed his willingness to cooperate with police investigators and has signed a document saying so.

"This is a huge breakthrough. If we are now groping in the dark, then we are seeing some light," said Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region.

Dolina said Bumidang might have finally realized "the futility" of the Magdalo group's actions. He hinted that Bumidang could become a state witness.

"During our raid when we captured them, I noticed even then that Lt. Bumidang appeared to be blaming his colleagues (for what happened)," Dolina said.

But Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullon said Bumidang cannot be used as a state witness against his co-accused because the crime of illegal possession of firearms is not a conspiracy.

Also captured during the raid were Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza, 1st Lt.Sonny Sarmiento, 2nd Lts. Angelbert Gay and Aldrin Baldonado, and Navy Lt.j.g. Kiram Sadava, and two civilians, lawyer Christopher Belmonte and Michael Yangson.

The Department of Justice has filed before a Quezon City court charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives and direct assault against the six Magdalo soldiers.

Bumidang would be the second Magdalo officer to squeal on his former colleagues. The Army earlier confirmed that 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, another Magdalo officer captured in February in Batangas, had been cooperating with authorities.

On Monday night, Bumidang "turned over" three laptop computers, a flash disc, an external computer memory, at least nine mobile phones, a printer, three bank passbooks, and at least three envelopes containing documents.

Investigators were fast to retrieve and analyze the electronic documents.

Asked what they expect the documents to contain, CIDG chief Director Jesus Versoza said: "It might complement our initial analysis of the (plans) of the Magdalo, based on the (seized) blueprints of the Batasan complex, the proximity of their house to Batasan, and the timing (of their move to the area)," Versoza said.

Versoza said that based on their initial analysis, the Magdalo group was planning to do some destabilization during the State of the Nation Address.

The CIDG had tried to apply for another warrant to seize the items that the raiding team had left behind inside the alleged Magdalo safehouse on Adler Street in Fil-Invest 2 in Quezon City.

But on Monday night, a classmate of Dolina from the Philippine Army told him Bumidang was already willing to help the police retrieve documents. Thus, a search warrant was no longer needed.

Dolina said he had Bumidang executed a handwritten statement saying he was cooperating and that he was not coerced into doing so before he and CIDG officers proceeded to the Fil-Invest subdivision.

Bumidang was accompanied by his lawyer, Francis Villanueva, police said.

Yesterday, two of the recaptured renegade soldiers appeared in a Makati court.

Wearing only slippers, Rabonza and Sarmiento were brought by their military custodians to the Makati Regional Trial Court.

Sarmiento's lawyer Theodore Te and Rabonza's counsel, Rene Saguisag, however, noted that their clients were obviously not ready for the hearing, as they came in improper attire, unlike their co-accused who were in military uniform.

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DFA honors Fil-Am soldier slain in Iraq

FOREIGN SECRETARY ALBERTO Romulo offered his condolences to the family of a Filipino-American soldier who was killed in Iraq recently, praising him for helping defend democracy, a government statement said yesterday.

Romulo has directed a Philippine consular official in the US to hand-deliver his letter to the family of Army Spc. Christopher Rose in San Francisco, a Department of Foreign Affairs statement said.

In his letter, Romulo said the Philippines honors Rose's "bravery and commitment in helping secure a free, stable and democratic Iraq."

"Christopher represented the best of the Filipino-American—freedom-loving, independent and goal-oriented," Romulo said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is among US President George W. Bush's closest allies in the US-led war on terror and has strongly supported joint Philippine-US counterterror exercises in the country involving hundreds of American soldiers, including many who served in Iraq.

Rose was killed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad on June 29, the only soldier who died in that incident, US military officials said. He had been injured a month earlier by another roadside bomb.

Rose was in the 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas. He was the sixth Filipino-American soldier to die in Iraq, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

Rose, a Vallejo native who grew up in San Francisco, was sent to Iraq in December for his first tour of duty and was scheduled to go home in October.

He reportedly told family members when he enlisted in June 2004 that he wanted to make a difference, although many of them didn't want him to go to Iraq.

His father, Rudy Rose, who is from Aklan, said Rose has been haunted by an incident a few months after arriving in Iraq in which he shot and killed several people running from the scene of a roadside bomb that exploded, following standard procedure. When troops examined the bodies, they found they were children—one had a mobile phone modified to function as a remote detonation device.

The killing "bothered him terribly, because they were just kids," Rudy Rose said. *AP*

S. Korea eases ban on foreign doctors

By Jerome Aning

SOUTH KOREA IS planning to allow foreign doctors with medical licenses to get jobs in hospitals and medical institutions there, the Philippine Overseas Employment Authority said yesterday.

In a statement, POEA said that the Ministry of Health and Welfare of South Korea recently announced its plan to revise the enforcement regulations in the country's Medical Law which is expected to be finalized in September.

POEA quoted a report by the Philippine Embassy in Seoul which said that under the proposed regulation, foreign doctors with medical licenses may be allowed to work in South Korea by March next year.

However, the regulation, if approved, would only allow a foreign doctor to treat patients who have the same nationality as the medical practitioner, or if they both speak the same language, but would not be allowed to treat Korean patients.

Revision

The revision would pave the way for the entry of Filipino doctors to South Korea to take care of the health needs of about 45,000 Filipinos and about 400,000 English-speaking foreigners there, according to POEA.

The agency said that criteria about the qualifications and process of permitting foreign doctors are expected to come before the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the POEA said that the United Kingdom's Home Office has announced the removal of general nurses from the shortage occupation list, and retaining only those with specific fields of specialization.

The new policy, according to the POEA, take effect Aug. 14.

The mover requires British employers to satisfy the resident labor market test first before they can recruit foreign general nurses.

Pinay missing in Greece

A FILIPINO WOMAN has been missing for more than two weeks after the sailboat that she and her Greek husband were sailing collided with a high-speed yacht off the coast of Glyfada in Greece.

In a statement, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) identified the Filipina as Claudine Gabisan Valkanas, a native of Cebu.

Valkanas and her husband were on their sailboat "Sea Bird" when it collided with the English-flagged high-speed yacht "Clats" last June 24.

The sailboat was shattered and capsized immediately, according to the initial report of the Port Authority of Glyfada to the embassy. *Nikko Dizon*

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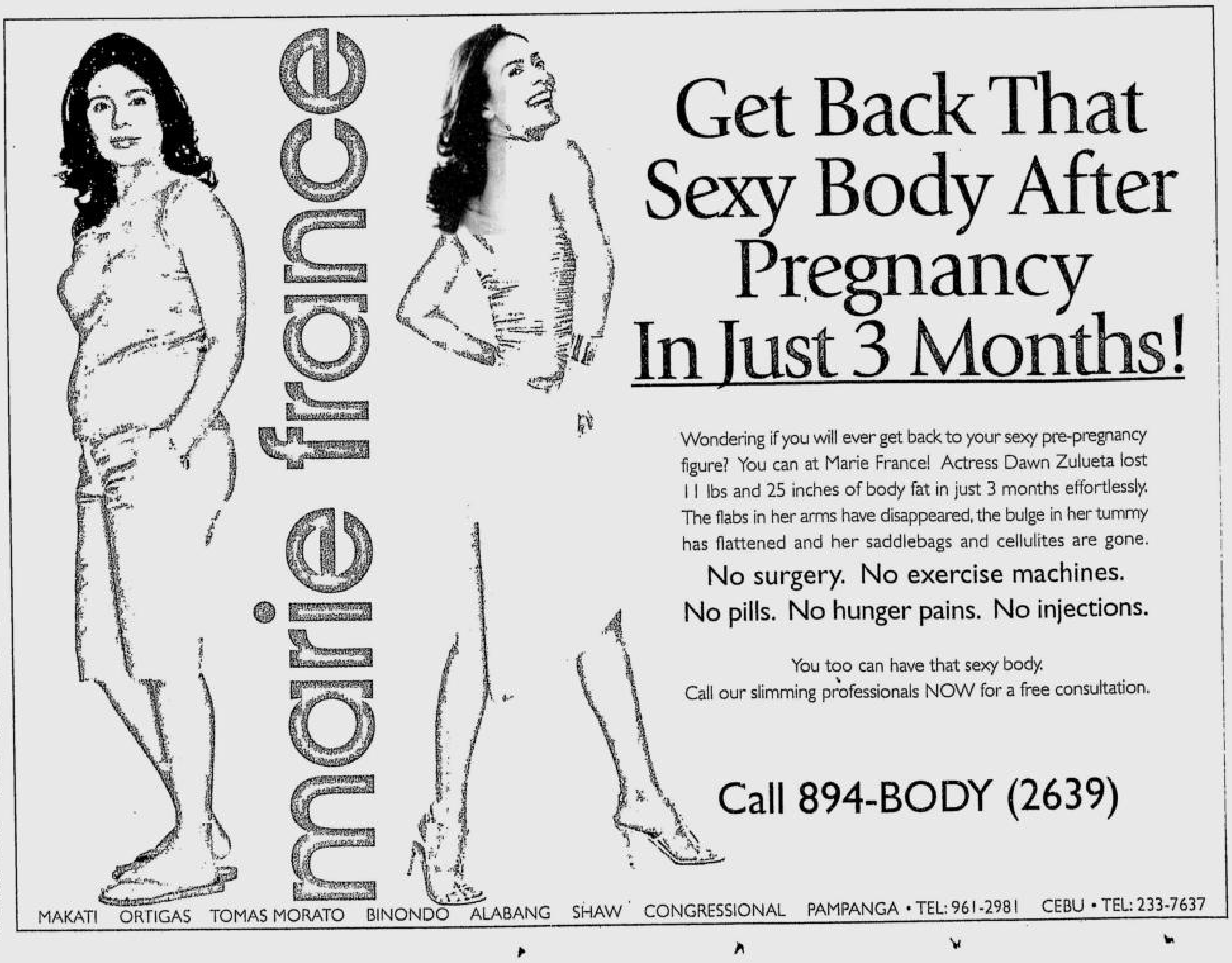

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Over 100 killed in Mumbai train bombings

NEW DELHI—MORE THAN 100 PEOple were killed on Tuesday in seven bomb explosions at rail stations and on trains in India's financial capital Mumbai, police said.

"There are 104 dead," a police official at the city's central control room, who gave his name as Bhavale, told Reuters by phone.

Explosions hit at least five packed commuter trains during the evening rush hour on Tuesday, injuring scores of people, officials said.

"Casualties probably will go up. Ambulances and hospitals are on stand-by," D.K. Shankaran, chief secretary of the state of Maharashtra, of which Mumbai is the capital, told Reuters.

Seven blasts

Earlier, Mumbai's police chief A.N. Roy said at least 20 bodies had been taken to one hospital.

The local CNN-IBN news channel said at least 15 people were killed in one blast at Matunga station in central Mumbai.

"The blasts happened when the trains were most crowded," Shankaran said.

Roy told CNN-IBN there had been seven blasts on the rail network, on stations and on platforms.

Officials said scores had been injured in the blasts, which also hit the suburbs of Mahim, Santa Cruz and Khar.

"We have rescued at least 30 people in Mahim and about 40 to 50 in Matunga," A. Jhandwal, Mumbai's fire services chief told Reuters. "We have doused the flames at all the blast sites and now we are taking the injured to hospitals."

One television channel showed more than half-a-dozen injured people at the Khar suburban station of Mumbai. One badly injured person lying near railway tracks was carried away by people using a long sheet of cloth.

'It's a sad day'

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh immediately called the home minister and other top officials to an emergency meeting to discuss the violence.

"It is a sad day," Home Secretary V.K.Duggal told reporters ahead of the meeting. "Security has been definitely put on high alert." Dazed survivors were shown with wounds from injuries to heads, legs and hands at the railway station, with little sign of any emergency medical aid.

The Mumbai blasts came just hours after suspected Islamist militants killed seven people, six of them tourists, in a series of grenade attacks in Indian Kashmir's main city, Srinagar, police said, the most concerted targeting of civilians in months.

Kashmir has been split between India and Pakistan since shortly after the two countries gained independence from Britain in 1947, but both claim it in full.

Mumbai, a metropolis of about 17 million, has been hit by a series of bomb blasts in the past decade.

More than 250 people died in a string of bomb explosions in Bombay in 1993 for which authorities blamed the city's underworld criminal gangs.

Police in the Indian capital New Delhi said they were on the lookout for more violence.

"We have mobilized our entire forces who are conducting checks in all areas such as buses, bus stops, train stations and religious institutions," Anil Shukla, deputy commissioner of police for South Delhi, told Reuters.

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

DepEd urged to focus on abstinence, not contraception

By Alcuin Papa

FOCUS ON ABSTINENCE AND CHASTITY INstead of contraception and pre-marital sex.

An academic of the University of Asia and the Pacific (UAP) made this suggestion to the Department of Education (DepEd) on the controversial sex education courses in public schools.

The UAP is reportedly allied with the ultraconservative Opus Dei.

Antonio Torralba, Dean of the UAP College of Arts and Sciences, said that he saw "nothing wrong" with sex education in public schools. However, there should be less focus on contraception and pre-marital sex, he said in a press conference yesterday.

"Sex education in public schools is limited to safe sex. But sex education is not just a matter of contraception. It's educating the heart in affection and true love," said Torralba, who admitted that he had not read the new lesson plan for the sex education courses.

Based on past lesson plans, he said, DepEd was "not going beyond safe sex."

"DepEd should talk of, and put more emphasis on sexuality within the bounds of marriage. The focus should be on the dignity of sex, abstinence, chastity, preserving and preparing yourself for marriage... and that virginity still counts," Torralba said.

Pre-marital sex

He added that it was still the main responsibility of parents to educate their children about sex.

According to Dr. Lolita Andrada, director of DepEd Bureau of Secondary Education (BSE), who is with the editorial board of the lesson plan, DepEd is not promoting and will never promote pre-martial sex.

"What we should develop in the students is the capacity to say no to teen sex or pre-marital sex," Andrada said.

She added that a section in the lesson plan on "promoting safe sex" was "causing confusion" because it would appear that the DepEd was "indirectly or directly promoting pre-marital sex."

Andrada said they would be revising this section, as well as other sections that were easily misinterpreted.

Torralba said that schools, together with the private sector, had already embarked on a nationwide campaign to inform students on life choices, including issues on relationships and pre-marital sex.

The program, "I Am S.T.R.O.N.G. (Steadfast, Trustworthy, Respectful, Open-Minded, Noble, Gutsy)," is a two-day seminar for high school students and their teachers.

Among the topics for discussion are freedom and responsibilities of the youth, building good friendships and relationships with the opposite sex, and career choices.

"The problems of the youth are serious. But people in the private sector are helping. Students want to hear what is right and wrong," Torralba said.

Rains critical to Lafayette test run, execs say

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE RAINS WOULD BE CRITICAL IN DETERmining the efficiency of the environmental control mechanisms put up by Lafayette Mining Ltd. during its 30-day test run, an official of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said yesterday.

The impact of the volume of rainfall in Rapu-Rapu, Albay, which hosts the P1.4-billion Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Project, would reveal the stability of the dams and other structures that were enhanced by Lafayette as a precondition for the test run.

"The rains will tell [us] whether there's anything more we need to fix," Mines and Environmental Safety chief Michael Cabalda said in an interview yesterday.

"The countdown to another ocean disaster has begun," Greenpeace southeast asia toxics campaigner Beau Bacongis said, warning that the test run heralded "the continuation of the destruction that the mine will wreak on the fragile marine ecosystem around the island.

"Its toxic tailings and the inevitable acid mine drainage associated with this operation will continue to pollute the seas," Bacongis added.

Peak wet season

Heavy rains had caused the second of two mine spills in the Lafayette mine site on Oct. 31 last year, proving the dam's incapacity to handle a huge volume of water.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources had suspended Lafayette's processing operations for seven months after investigations showed that the company had started operations when its dams were not tall enough to hold water equivalent to 100 years of rainfall.

July has been dubbed as the peak of the wet season in the Philippines. Two tropical cyclones have entered the country this month, with the weather bureau expecting more before the month ends. *With a report from AFP*

'Batasan 5' again on watchlist

ACTING ON A DIrective from the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Immigration yesterday said it has again placed on its watchlist five leftist lawmakers facing rebellion charges in connection with their alleged participation in an abortive coup against the government last February.

The watchlist order against the so-called Batasan 5—party list Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casino and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna, Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis and Liza Maza of Gabriela—was issued Friday by BI Associate Commissioner Roy Almoro.

As a result of the watchlist order, the party-list congressmen will need to first secure a clearance from DOJ before they could leave the country, Almoro explained.

On June 24, Ocampo, armed with a permit from the Makati regional trial court, was allowed to go on a trip to Switzerland, where he attended a United Nations human rights conference. But not before immigration authorities tried to stop him from leaving.

Immigration authorities at the airport initially refused to let him board his plane because of a hold-departure order issued by the bureau. *Jerome Aning*

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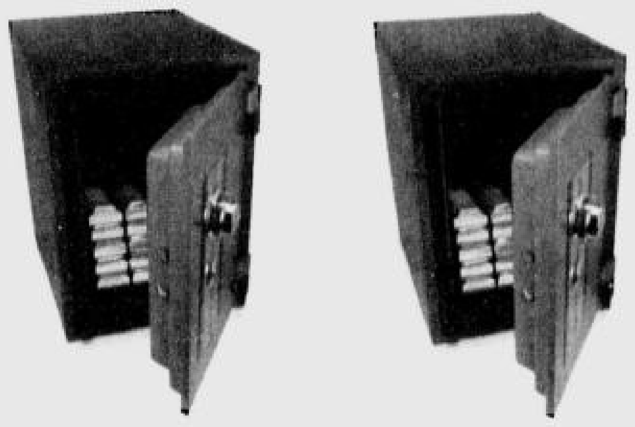

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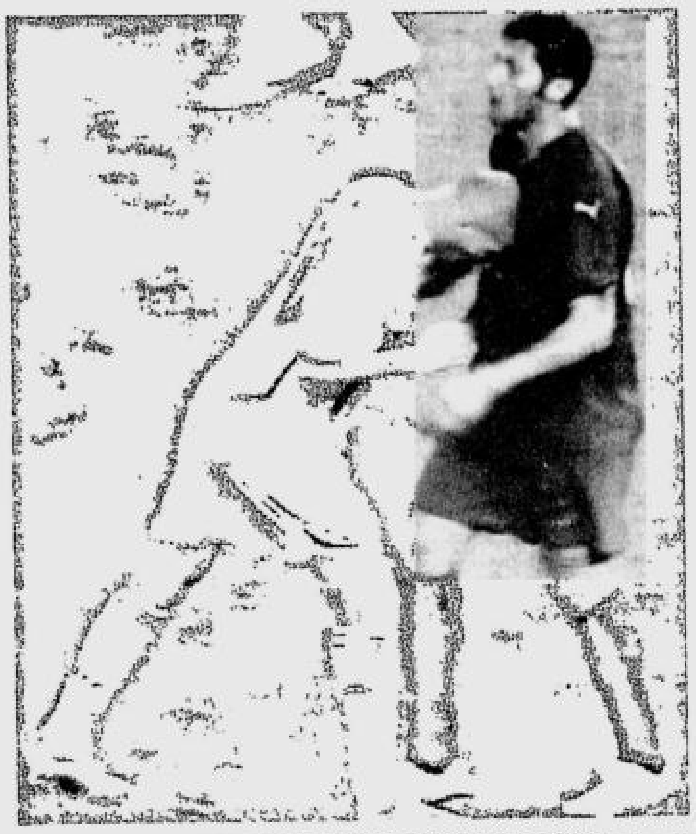
2 expert lip readers solve Zidane head butt



THE HEAD BUTT THAT WAS SEEN AROUND THE WORLD: France captain Zinedine Zidane (left) heads straight for Italian Marco Materazzi during the World Cup 2006 final between Italy and France at the Berlin Olympic Stadium. TV GRAB/AFP

From page A1

Materazzi had uttered to France's Zinedine Zidane just before the French captain gave the Italian defender a brutal head butt in Sunday's World Cup final.

With Italy and France tied at 1-1, more than a billion people watching soccer's biggest spectacle on television around the world were stunned when Zidane suddenly floored Materazzi with a head butt to the chest in the 110th minute.

The French captain was sent off with a red card, missing a decisive penalty shootout in which he would have been expected to score one of his team's five spot kicks. Italy went on to win the shootout, 5-3, and its fourth World Cup title.

Exhaustive study

To get to the bottom of the controversy, The Times newspaper hired Jessica Rees, a renowned lip reader frequently summoned as an expert witness at criminal trials in Britain, to study a tape of Sunday's match.

"After an exhaustive study of the match video, and with the help of an Italian translator, Rees claimed that Materazzi called Zidane 'the son of a terrorist whore' before adding 'so just f*** off' for good measure," the newspaper said.

The Daily Mail on Tuesday said that it had also engaged the services of a lip reader who reached the same conclusion as Rees. The British newspaper did not identify the lip reader.

The Brazilian television channel Globo had a different account: Zidane's moment of madness in his last match before retiring may have been provoked by Materazzi who called the French star's sister a prostitute.

Fantastico, a program on Globo, also employed expert lip readers who said footage of the incident showed the Italian defender twice insulted Zidane's sister.

Materazzi version

An Italian newspaper, however, reported on Tuesday that Materazzi had acknowledged that he "insulted" Zidane because, according to the Italian stalwart, the French captain was super arrogant.

"I held his shirt . . . for only a few seconds, he turned toward me and scoffed at me, looking at me with super arrogance, up and down: 'If you really want my shirt, you can have it later.' (Zidane said) It's true, I shot back with an insult," La Gazzetta dello Sport quoted Materazzi as saying.

Asked whether he had insulted Zidane's sister or mother, Materazzi said it was an "insult of the kind you will hear dozens of times and that just slips out on the ground."

"I certainly didn't call him a terrorist. I am ignorant . . . I don't even know what an Islamic terrorist is; my only terrorist is her," the Italian defender said, pointing to his 10-month-old daughter who was sleeping next to him on the plane that took the Italian team back to Italy.

"I certainly did not mention Zidane's mother; for me a mother is sacred," he added.

In recalling the incident at Berlin's Olympic Stadium, the Corriere della Sera newspaper said that Materazzi lost his mother when he was 14 and that he would certainly not have insulted Zidane's.

Zidane's agent on Monday said the assault on Materazzi was provoked by a "very serious" comment made by the Italian defender.

Racist remark

In Paris, the antiracism advocacy group SOS-Racism on Monday issued a statement quoting "several very well informed sources from the world of football" as saying Materazzi called Zidane a "dirty terrorist." It demanded that the international football federation Fifa investigate and take any appropriate action.

Fifa, which reviews all red cards at the World Cup, would not comment on the specifics. "This is a disciplinary matter now. I can't give any statements now," Fifa spokesperson Markus Siegler said.

Whatever it was that Materazzi had uttered, it was enough to infuriate Zidane, who still won the Golden Ball as the World Cup's best player.

"Zizou is someone who reacts to things," said Aime Jacquet, Zidane's coach at the 1998 World Cup. "Unfortunately he could not control himself. It's terrible to see him leave this way."

Zidane's red card was anything but unusual. He was sent off 14 times in his career at the club and international level.

At the 1998 World Cup, he stomped on a Saudi Arabian opponent. Sitting out a two-match ban, he came back to score two goals against Brazil in the final. Five years ago with Juventus, he head butted an opponent in a Champions League match against Hamburger SV after being tackled from behind.

Mixed reaction

The reaction to Sunday's outburst was mixed in France. President Jacques Chirac called Zidane "a genius of world football," but former Sports Minister Marie-George Buffet said Zidane's aggressive act was unforgivable for its effect on children watching the game.

Most French, however, have forgiven Zidane for his savage head butt, according to a poll published on Tuesday.

More than half of the 802 respondents said they understood Zidane's reaction, according to the poll conducted by telephone by CSA polling agency published in Tuesday's Le Parisien newspaper. No margin of error was given.

Adored

Zidane, whose parents immigrated to France from Algeria, became a proud symbol of a multicultural France and is adored in Algeria.

The lashing is nothing new to Zidane, who grew up playing on concrete in an impoverished immigrant neighborhood of Marseille, where fouls and insults are met with instant retribution.

"You can take the man out of the rough neighborhood, but you can't take the rough neighborhood out of the man," French striker Thierry Henry said after the final. *Reports from AFP and AP*

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SWS: Dissatisfaction . . .

From page A1

two quarters—from -30 in December 2005 and -25 in March 2006.

Except in Metro Manila

Net satisfaction scores for the President in the latest SWS survey rose in all areas, except in Metro Manila where it declined further to a record low of -48 in June from -37 in March.

Ms Arroyo's net satisfaction rating in the Visayas rose to +2, from -12 in March. Similarly, the President's net scores in the rest of Luzon improved to -13 from -23, and in Mindanao to -7 from -32.

Ms Arroyo's satisfaction rating rose among the "masa," registering a -10 net satisfaction score in June among the D class and -22 among the E class.

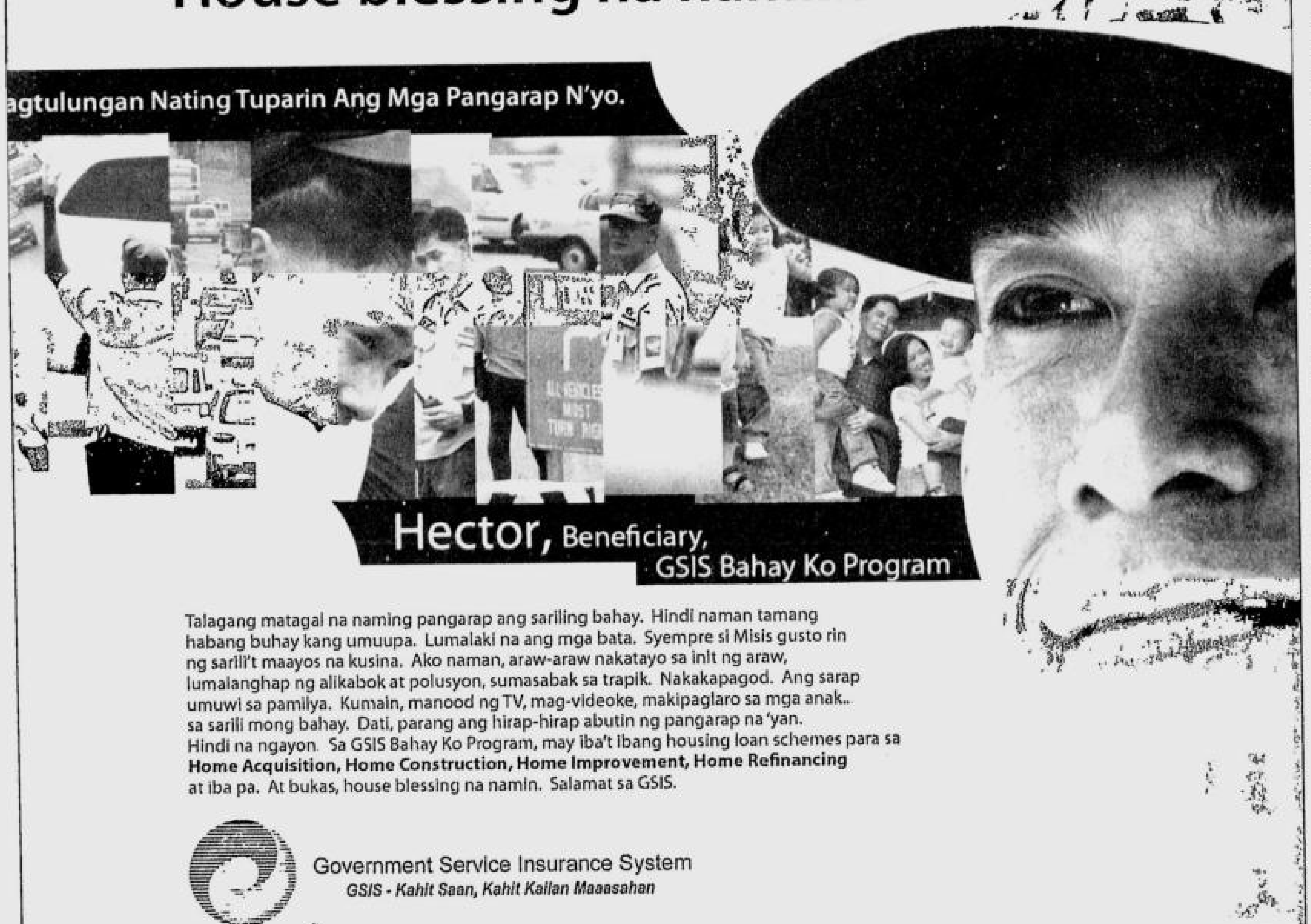
Decline in ABC classes

But her net score declined among the middle to upper ABC classes, which gave Ms Arroyo a net satisfaction rating of -27 in June, the second lowest on record, following her -34 ratings in December 2000 and May 2005.

The SWS survey was conducted from June 22 to 28, using face-to-face interviews of 1,200 adults divided into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The survey had a margin of error of 3 percentage points for the national percentages and 6 percentage points for the area percentages. *Kate Pedroso, PDI Research*

"House blessing na namin."



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New PSG…

From page A1

Bangit, who served more than three years as President Arroyo's chief security officer, is going to the Army's 2nd Division based in Tanay, Rizal, where he will serve as assistant division commander.

Not known to GMA

In a phone interview, Bangit described Prestoza as a "very fine, professional officer" with 23 years of experience in intelligence work.

Prestoza was recommended to the top PSG position by the Board of Generals and Ms Arroyo approved the recommendation, according to Bangit.

Asked whether the President personally knew Prestoza, the outgoing PSG chief said he did not think so.

Ms Arroyo will be present at today's ceremonies at the PSG headquarters marking the turnover of command.

From Pangasinan

A native of San Nicolas, Pangasinan, Prestoza served as element leader and flight commander at the Philippine Air Force Flying School at Fernando Air Base in Lipa City.

He held various positions at the Isafp, including chief of operations and intelligence branch Task Force 63; assistant MIG21; COMMEL Staff officer, Isafp; chief Operations and Intelligence Division; Group Commander MIG19, MIG24, among others.

Prestoza served as Philippine Air Force Representative to the United Nations Command (REAR) in Tokyo and as Air Attache in Washington D.C.

At present, he is chief of the Office of the Ethical Standard and Public Accountability, Isafp, and chair of the Personnel Management Board, Isafp.

Many awards

Prestoza has received three distinguished service star awards, with three others pending approval, seven bronze cross medals and 24 military merit medals, among many other awards. He has also won an Outstanding Achievement Medal.

Prestoza is married to Lilian Obillio and they have three children.

Storm Florita moves north

TROPICAL STORM FLORITA GATHERED strength yesterday as it moved north of the Philippines on its way to Taiwan.

Packing maximum sustained winds of 85 kph and gustiness of 100 kph, Florita was spotted by satellite images at 740 km east of Aparri, Cagayan.

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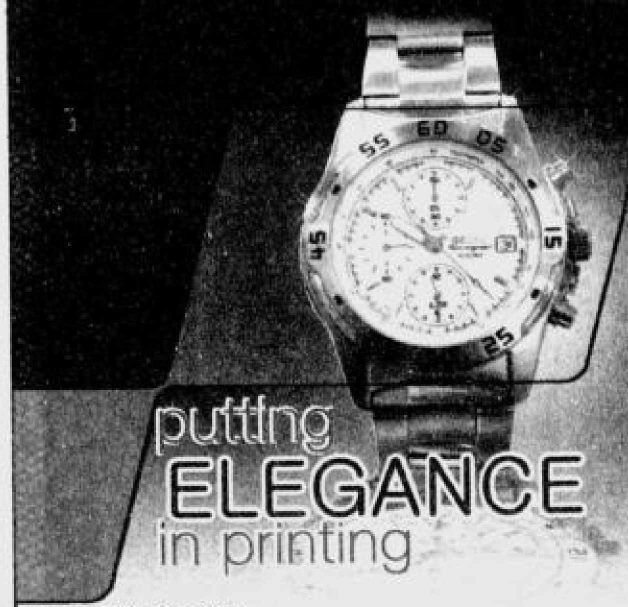

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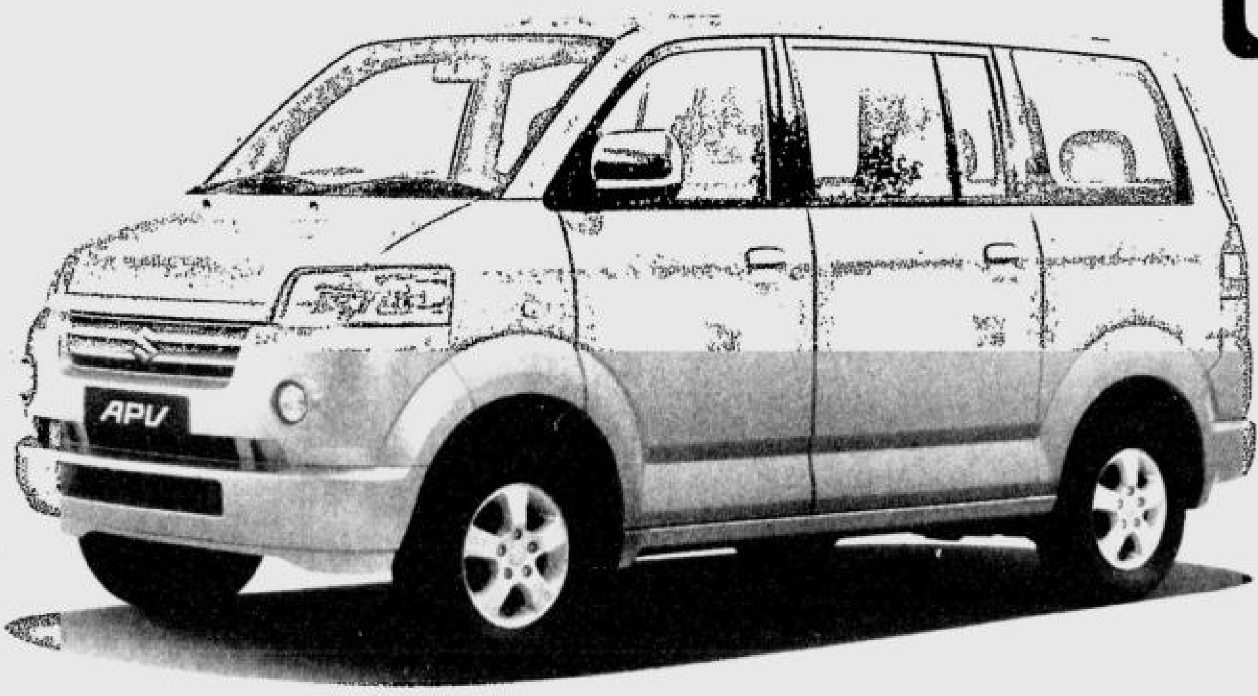

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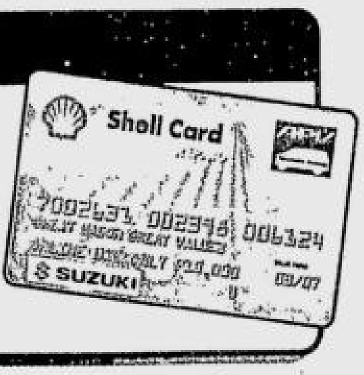

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Senga waited 2 hours, report AFP probers

From page A1

Senga had issued earlier denials of his reported vacillation and repeated yesterday his version of the meeting with Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, commander of the crack First Scout Ranger Regiment, and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin on the night of Feb. 23. *(See story on this page.)*

"I already said that in our meeting, I told them that they should not push through with their plan," Senga told the INQUIRER.

But Scout Rangers officers were reportedly sending text messages to Lim to ask about his meeting with Senga.

Lim reportedly texted Maj. Jason Aquino, who was the Scout Rangers operations chief at the time, saying, *"Nag-usap kami, maganda* (We talked, it was good)."

'OK na si Senga'

In an affidavit, Aquino said Capt. Joey Fontiveros messaged him around 10 p.m. saying, *"OK na si Senga."* When Aquino asked Lim to confirm this, Lim reportedly replied, "OK."

The panel report said it took Senga two hours before he called his service commanders to a meeting after hearing from Lim about the plan to disavow loyalty to Ms Arroyo to avert bloodshed.

During that crucial interval—between the time Senga met with Lim and Querubin and his emergency meeting with his commanders—word reached other officers that Senga had agreed to lead the military in withdrawing support from Ms Arroyo.

This timeline of the events of Feb. 23 and 24, which led Ms Arroyo to declare a weeklong state of emergency, is based on the draft report of the eight-man fact-finding panel headed by AFP Inspector General Rear Admiral Rufino Lopez.

The military has not released its official timeline of the events leading to Feb. 24. Senga has also not given his version of the events, other than his denials.

The INQUIRER obtained a copy of the 33-page draft and unsigned Lopez report that was leaked last week, at the same time that a video of Lim's declaration of withdrawal of support was shown over ABS-CBN.

38 officers, 27 EMs

The draft report indicated that at most, 38 officers—20 from the Army's Scout Rangers and 18 from the Marines—and 27 enlisted personnel may be tried before a court-martial for plotting to oust Ms Arroyo by joining the Edsa protest rallies during the People Power anniversary on Feb. 24.

Lopez submitted an official 43-page report to Senga on Friday. Senga said he would act on the board's recommendations "as expeditiously as possible" but refused to release a copy of the report in the meantime.

Palace caught flat-footed

Based on Lopez's findings, Malacañang was caught flat-footed by news that elite units in the military and police were poised to break away from their Commander in Chief.

Ms Arroyo was scheduled to visit the Scout Rangers headquarters in Bulacan on Feb. 25.

Based on the timeline stated in the report, Lim and Querubin disclosed their plans to Maj. Gen. Rodrigo Maclang, deputy chief of staff for Intelligence, around 6 p.m. of Feb. 23.

Around 7 p.m., Maclang brought Lim and Querubin to see Senga at his office at the General Headquarters Building in Camp Aguinaldo.

"They discussed the same things that they have disclosed earlier to Maj. Gen. Maclang; that there were junior officers who are planning to join the mass protest action on the following day, Feb. 24," the report said.

The report said Lim and Querubin planned to lead their officers and men who would march to Edsa in uniform but with their firearms' muzzles down and while there declare a withdrawal of support.

Lim and Querubin reportedly also mentioned that Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco, commander of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force and Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, then Marine commandant, were part of the plan.

The report did not say how long the meeting lasted. But apparently Lim and Querubin stayed at the Office of the Chief of Staff while Senga went to the CSAFP Quarters.

Senga set an emergency meeting with the commanders of the Army, Navy and Air Force at the gazebo at the CSAFP Quarters at 9 p.m.

Meeting delayed

He reportedly called up Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes around 7:45 p.m. and Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. at 8:30 p.m.

The report did not say what time he called up Navy chief Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga, who was hosting a dinner party for his Indonesian counterpart at the time.

When asked if the timeline indicated in the report was correct, whether he waited nearly two hours after he talked to Lim and Querubin before he held an emergency meeting with the service commanders, Senga said:

"No, I called for a meeting immediately but they did not get there right away. And they did not come in at the same time so we had to wait for the others," he said.

Denials

Senga earlier vehemently denied to the INQUIRER that he ever agreed to the withdrawal of support and to lead the transition government that would replace the Arroyo administration.

"That would never happen," he had stressed.

According to the report, Reyes arrived at 9 p.m., Maclang shortly later, and Esperon at 9:30 p.m. Mayuga did not come until 11 p.m.

Then Senga broke the news about Lim and Querubin's disclosure.

"(Reyes) averred that the participation of the military and the police in the mass protest action should not be allowed as it might have a snowball effect on the military," the report said.

Options discussed

"After they were briefed on the situation, options on how to prevent the plan from being executed were discussed. One of the options was to talk to BGen Lim and Col. Querubin and convince the two not to push through with their plans," the report went on.

Upon Esperon's suggestion, Franco and Miranda were called into the meeting.

Franco arrived at 10:30 p.m. and confirmed the SAF would move. He reportedly told the group "the success of the march will depend on the CSAFP (Senga)'s concurrence and that they too do not want bloodshed."

Mayuga and Miranda arrived at 11 p.m. Senga reportedly asked Miranda if he could stop his men, and Miranda replied he is "for the Constitution and for the chain of command but will follow the will of the people."

Senga's order

Senga reportedly called Lim and Querubin who arrived at 11:30 p.m.

The two reportedly disclosed their plans. Lim reportedly also confirmed he had already made a taped message of his withdrawal of support.

The report said Senga told Lim, Querubin, Miranda and Franco to stop their plans. Lim and Querubin however insisted they could no longer hold their men back.

The following discussion reportedly took place:

Lim to Senga: *"Sir eto lahat, hindi ito magkakagulo kung maging solid tayo. Kung gusto nating solid e* we might have to do it on our own and probably the CSAFP can provide the leadership."

Senga: *"I don't think so. Paano naman yan kung gagalaw kayo e di magkakagulo tayo?"*

Lim and Querubin: *"Sir, hindi tayo magkakagulo kung magkakaisa tayong lahat.* The Armed Forces will join together and make the unity move under the CSAFP. *Kung magkaisa tayo, magkakasama tayo.* You provide the leadership *para wag tayong magkagulo."*

Saving face

Lim blurted out: *"Sir, hindi na kami makakaatras. Mawawalan na kami ng mukha!"*

Esperon: *"Bakit kayo lang ba ang may mukha?"*

Shortly past midnight, Senga reportedly gave his final warning to Lim, Querubin, Miranda and Franco.

"Your plan must not push through. Tell the men of its repercussions while there is still time. If you do (push through), I will just give you one order, Go back to barracks. If not, you have drawn the lines of battle," Senga reportedly said.

The meeting adjourned around 12:30 a.m. of Feb. 24. Mirand Lim and Querubin reported headed to the Marine headqua ters in Fort Bonifacio where M randa called all Marine officers an emergency meeting at 1 a.m.

Marine Col. Jonathan Martir portedly heard Lim telling someo on the phone to consolidate at t Marine headquarters at 4 a.m. Ma tir also said he heard Querubin t someone on the phone, *"Wala ta ga itong si Esperon. Okey na si Seng Hawak na namin si Senga dumati si Esperon nagbago ang isip."*

'Neutralize'

While the Marines were ho ing a meeting, Senga convene meeting at the AFP War Ro around 1:45 a.m. to check troops "and prepare to suppr or neutralize the power grab."

At the meeting were Esper Mayuga, Reyes, Maclang, Maj. G Pedro Ramboanga Jr., the dep chief of staff for operations (J3), tional Capital Region Command Gen. Alan Cabalquinto (retired) Col. Gaudencio Pangilinan, head AFP Counter-Intelligence Group.

Lim in custody

Without Senga's support, plan fizzled out. Miranda and Querubin failed to get the support of most of the other officers. Lim returned to his quarters that was surrounded by the Military Police.

Around 4:30 p.m., Lim was placed under the custody of the CSAFP reportedly upon his request. He has been restricted to quarters since then.

Shortly before dawn, news broke out in the media that the military had foiled a coup plot by Lim and Querubin. Querubin denied there was such a plot. Lim could no longer be interviewed at the time.

With a report from Nikko Dizon

Lim transferred to maximum security jail

From page A1

sides using force."

It was the first time that the West Point-trained fighter had spoken publicly about the video tape which was aired recently on local television.

Military officials said the tape was to have been aired in February to coincide with an alleged plot by rebel soldiers to stage a coup with the supposed backing of leftist conspirators. The attempt was also to have allegedly coincided with the Feb. 24 anniversary of the 1986 People Power revolution.

Initially refusing to talk about the video, Lim later admitted that he informed Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga and the other service commanders of the tape on the evening of Feb. 23. *(Related story on Page A1.)*

"I never hid that tape's existence," Lim told reporters after his second appearance at the NBI since the probe into his supposed role in the coup plot began in March.

"Like what I said the first time ... there was no plan to stage a coup d'etat. There was no plan to take over facilities by way of arms and violence," Lim said.

"The video was an expression of my freedom, but it has no significance anymore because it was never aired."

Lim said he and his soldiers only planned to hold a peaceful march, "as guaranteed by the Constitution."

Lim also met with Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

In a statement, Lim's counsel Vicente Verdadero said his client had no intention of turning into a state witness.

Lopez report

Verdadero said only a person who had committed an offense and had been charged could be a state witness.

"Lim has not committed any crime, and is not charged with any, so he can't be (a state witness)," Verdadero said.

The lawyer said Lim had sought a meeting with Gonzalez because he had information on the so-called "Lopez report," which was leaked to the media a few days ago and which reportedly contained recommendations for Lim and more than 50 other officers and men to be court-martialed.

Silent Caringal

"Lim wanted the Department of Justice to conduct the probe into the unauthorized leakage, thus his request for a meeting with Secretary Gonzalez," Verdadero said.

Col. Januario Caringal, who was said to be the officer in uniform standing behind Lim when the general read his statement on video, also appeared at the NBI but declined to talk to reporters.

In a sworn affidavit submitted to an NBI task force headed by lawyer Reynaldo Esmeralda, Caringal invoked his constitutional right to remain silent and refused to comment on the videotape.

"I should first be furnished a copy of the said videotape, which must first be authenticated in a manner provided for by law. before I could make intelligible comments regarding thereto," Caringal, assigned to the 2nd Marine Brigade Station in Iligan City, said in his affidavit.

Following his appearance at the NBI, Lim was transferred under heavy security to the Tanay detention facility. He had been restricted to his quarters in Fort Bonifacio since Feb. 24.

The Tanay facility was recently renovated to beef up its security.

Bacarro declined to give details about the transfer, citing "security considerations."

Authorities are apparently concerned that Lim's supporters might try to rescue their leader.

Another officer

Also transferred last night to Camp Capinpin in Tanay was Maj. Jason Aquino, former Scout Rangers operations chief, and an enlisted personnel facing an administrative case.

The Tanay facility is located inside the compound of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division headquarters. It had served as the detention facility of Estrada before he was allowed to stay in his nearby rest house, just across the highway, while undergoing trial.

A lesson for plotters

Sen. Joker Arroyo said the case of Lim should serve as a lesson to future coup plotters.

Without mentioning names, Arroyo said that an attempt by any military officer to withdraw allegiance from the President and mount a coup was fraught with risks and he might end up imprisoned if he failed.

On the other hand, if the rebellion succeeded, the officer would escape any charges and might even have a voice in the new government, he added.

"Does an officer who announces that he is withdrawing his support from the Commander in Chief commit an offense? Of course, he does," the maverick administration senator said in a statement.

"When one puts on a uniform, he has the duty to obey his superior officers and be bound by the chain of command without which no army can exist. He cannot break from the ranks at will and do or not do as he sees fit."

Arroyo, however, indicated that getting charged in court would largely hinge on whether the rebellion succeeded or not.

"Thus, an officer and his group who go against the Commander in Chief because they do not like the way the President runs the country, may do so but such is fraught with risks. If their move succeeds, then their action becomes legal, they write the terms of the new government," Arroyo said, without mentioning Lim's name.

"If their move fails, then they suffer the consequences," he added. "Stripped of legalism, it's a winner-take-all thing, or in other words, a dangerous zero-sum game."

That was why, then AFP Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel V. Ramos and other officials who rebelled against Ferdinand Marcos, triggering the 1986 People Power Revolution, and then AFP Chief Gen. Angelo Reyes and other military top brass who withdrew their support from then President Joseph Estrada in 2001 were never charged, the senator said.

"They were not punished and on the contrary, rewarded," he said, citing the axiom that "rebellion is illegal if it fails but legal if it succeeds."

"This is a dictum in political science," the senator said. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

'Genital injuries consistent' with rape

From page A1

pected to resume her testimony—and her eventual grilling by the defense—after Fortun's cross-examination.

Very old method

In his testimony on June 29, Ortiz, another witness for the prosecution, also used the term "consistent."

Ortiz was the medico-legal officer of the James Gordon Memorial Hospital in Olongapo City who examined Nicole on the morning of Nov. 3, 2005, some 33 hours after the alleged rape.

But while Fortun agreed with Ortiz on the nature of Nicole's injuries, she cast doubt on the findings of the Philippine National Police's crime laboratory with respect to Nicole's panties and the used condom found stuck in the garter.

The PNP Crime Lab concluded that these two items bore no traces of semen when examined—a point earlier raised by the lawyers of the four accused US Marines when they grilled crime investigator Ramon Paje on June 22.

But according to Fortun, the PNP reached that conclusion using the Florence method, "a very, very old" mode for detecting semen that is "no longer used in modern laboratories today."

She described it as "not reliable and not specific," and said "fake negative results are common" using the method.

'Suppressing' truth

Defense lawyer Jose Justiniano (counsel for Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood) rose to object and said Ursua was "suppressing evidence" pertaining to the PNP Crime Lab report.

But Ursua countered that in eliciting that view from Fortun, the prosecution merely wanted the court to appreciate that the method in question was "antiquated."

She said it was actually the defense that was "suppressing the truth about science" in trying to stop Fortun's testimony.

Commenting on Nicole's five contusions on the limbs that Ortiz had noted, Fortun said one found near her right wrist and two more on her left upper arm were probably caused by a blunt, rounded object, such as "a fingertip."

She said she could not easily tell what might have caused the two other contusions near Nicole's right knee for lack of additional descriptions in Ortiz's report.

Blunt force

Like Ortiz, Fortun said all these contusions, being grayish to black, were "recent," or sustained one or two days prior to Nicole's examination.

As to the genitals, Fortun said "the contusions on both sides of the labia minoras ... indicate injury due to a blunt force, a result of forcible penetration of the opening of the vagina with a blunt object, most common of which is an erect penis."

Asked if there was a relationship between this type of vaginal contusion and a woman's "sexual response," Fortun said such injuries were unlikely if sex were consensual.

This is because, she said, the woman would "angle or tilt" her pelvis in a way that would be "more receptive to the thrust of an erect penis," and that the vagina itself would have "natural lubrication."

Such "normal" bodily responses "prepare [the woman] for nontraumatic sexual intercourse," Fortun said, adding:

"It is typically absent in rape victims. That's why genital injury occurs."

Fortun also said the vaginal contusions might be as recent as those found on the limbs because, as Ortiz had reported, Nicole experienced "unusual tenderness"—or pain—when he conducted a manual examination.

Defense lawyer Francisco Rodrigo (counsel for S/Sgt. Chad Carpentier) made several attempts to block Fortun's analysis for supposedly being hypothetical.

Rodrigo also asked why Fortun was being allowed to give an opinion "based on the opinion of other experts."

But Pozon allowed Fortun to continue quoting from her materials, interrupting her only once to tell her to interpret the medico-legal report without making reference to the alleged crime.

This was after Fortun had described the limb contusions as "consistent with the alleged circumstances" in which Nicole was brought to Ortiz for examination.

'Nonvirginal state'

Defense lawyer Antonio Rebosa (counsel for Lance Cpl. Dominic Duplantis) tried to show that the 22-year-old Nicole might have had the injuries prior to the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

Rebosa asked Fortun whether a woman with a lacerated hymen, such as Nicole had been found to be, could indicate that she was already in "nonvirginal state."

(He had earlier established, through Fortun's reply, that a lacerated hymen was "consistent with [sexual] intercourse," even if such an injury was inflicted 30 days prior to detection.)

Ursua objected, saying that a woman's virginity was immaterial to proving sexual assault, and that Philippine law even recognized marital rape.

But Pozon allowed Rebosa's question.

Fortun replied: "We do not use virginal state in our medical findings and the condition of the hymen is not an indication of the sexual activity of women. Even in young children, they have found notches which, to an examiner, may be misconstrued as an indication of sexual activity."

Rebosa asked Fortun if she knew of statistics showing the number of women who denied having engaged in sexual activity despite having been found with a lacerated hymen.

Ursua objected, but Pozon again directed Fortun to answer.

Fortun: "I do not believe there are studies ... The thinking that the [condition] of a woman's hymen is indicative of her sexual activity is not valid anymore."

Arousal

Rebosa, also a doctor, proceeded to question Fortun on Nicole's genital injuries: "If a woman is fully aroused, could it be that she may not be fully lubricated? Is swelling [in the vaginal area] possible even if the sex was consensual?"

Fortun: "In that case, if a woman is uncomfortable and she is feeling pain, then she would have done something to make it stop. It would have been painful."

Rebosa then asked Fortun about the use of a condom during intercourse and whether or not it would cause injuries.

(The defense had contended that a rapist would not use a condom in committing the crime. Ursua had read out the gist of published studies showing that sex offenders used condoms to evade arrest and prosecution.)

Rebosa: "If a woman is fully aroused and her partner is using a condom, would [her] lubrication decrease?"

Fortun: "I do not see how the use of a condom would decrease a woman's lubrication."

Rebosa: "Can a condom cause swelling even if the sex is consensual?"

Fortun: "It wouldn't be the condom that would cause the injury but the erect penis."

Women's rights

Justiniano went direct to discrediting Fortun, a consultant at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital's Women's Desk and the Child Protection Unit, two organizations providing counseling for women and children who have been victims of violence.

"Well, do you expect a Catholic priest to say something negative about Jesus Christ? She admitted that she is a member of that UP-PGH Women's Desk, and one of its missions is advocacy of women's rights. How can she be an impartial witness?" Justiniano said.

Mar Roxas cool to LP-NP coalition

SEN. MANUEL "MAR" ROXAS II YESterday dismissed possible talks for coalition between the Liberal Party and Nacionalista Party as "trial balloons" floated by senators who are running for reelection in 2007.

Roxas indicated he wasn't aware of, much less interested in any talks for coalition between the LP wing under Senate President Franklin Drilon and the NP led by Sen. Manuel "Manny" Villar Jr.

"I only read what was in the newspapers and I have not been to any meeting or discussions about that. So I think these are trial balloons that will rise and fall according to the winds," he told reporters.

The senator, the party's executive vice president, said the possibility of the country's two oldest parties coalescing was merely the idea of senators who are seeking another term in next year's mid-term elections.

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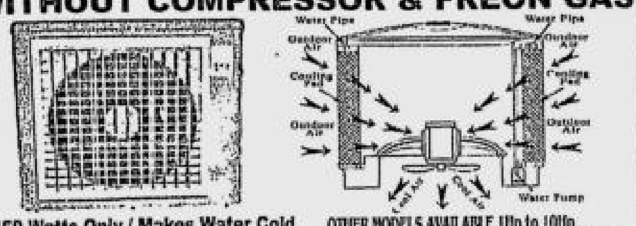

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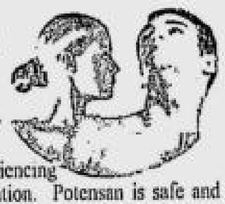
Are you secretly suffering from lack of strong, hard performance during your intimate moments with your partner? Or do you have to take a drug to help you perform well, but secretly suffer afterwards from headache and fear it might one day kill you? Man achieves ultimate sex pleasure if 4 factors are present: hard and sustained erection, prolonged orgasm, quicker recovery after orgasm, and last but not least – a satisfied partner. And speaking of partner, the woman's major problem is usually lack of sexual desire or lack of lubrication. She achieves major enjoyment when desire and lubrication are induced naturally.
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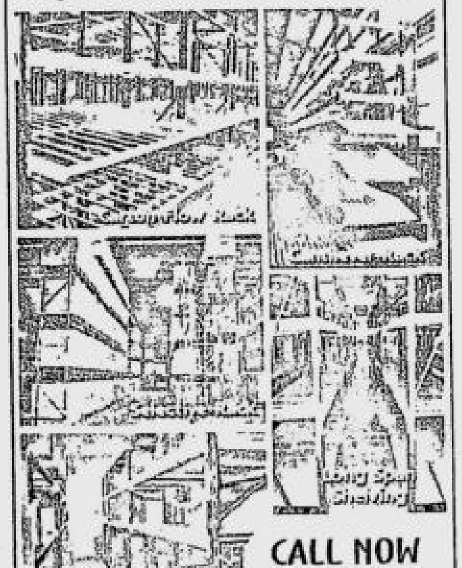
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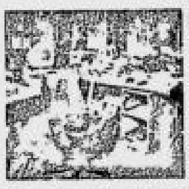
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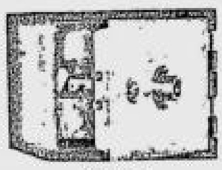
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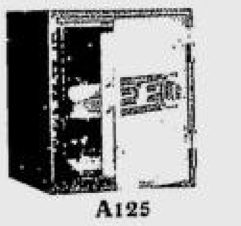
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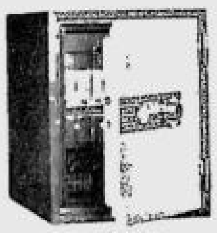
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Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

Sirs and Mesdames:

Quoted hereunder, for your information, is a resolution of the Court En Banc dated

6 June 2006

"A.M. No. 03-05-01-SC.- Re: New Code of Judicial Conduct for the Philippine Judiciary.- The Court Resolved, upon the recommendation of the Philippine Judicial Academy, to REVISE the provision of Canon 4, Section 9 of the New Code of Judicial Conduct, as distributed to judges and court personnel, so as to read as follows:

> Confidential information acquired by judges in their judicial capacity shall not be used or disclosed for any other purpose not related to their judicial duties.

The Clerk of Court is hereby directed to publish the above correction." Ynares-Santiago, J., on leave. (119)

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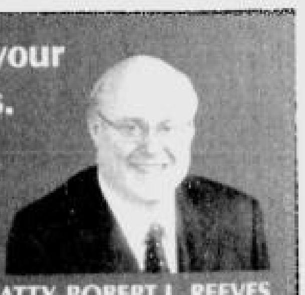
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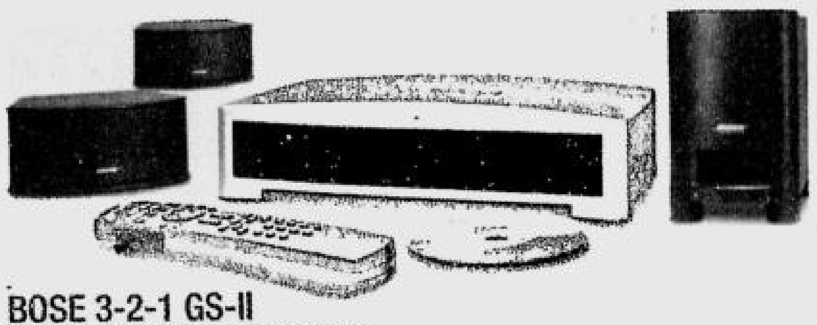

15 BOSE 3-2-1 GS-II HOME ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

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Albay

CORPUZ, MARK E.
Rizal

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Davao City

MAROHOM, NASER
South Cotabato

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Parañaque City

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Caloocan City

SALAZAR, EMMA P.
Aklan

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Sariaya, Quezon

VILLAMAR, ROWENA G.
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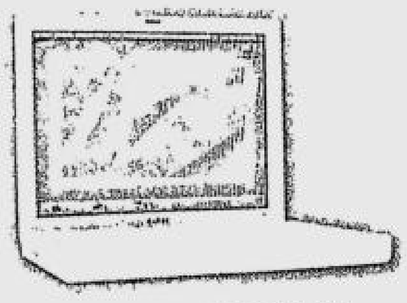

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Pasig City

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Quezon City

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Isabela

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Pasig City

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VICEDO, ROMULO N.
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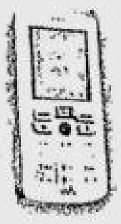

45 SONY ERICSSON W800i MOBILE PHONES

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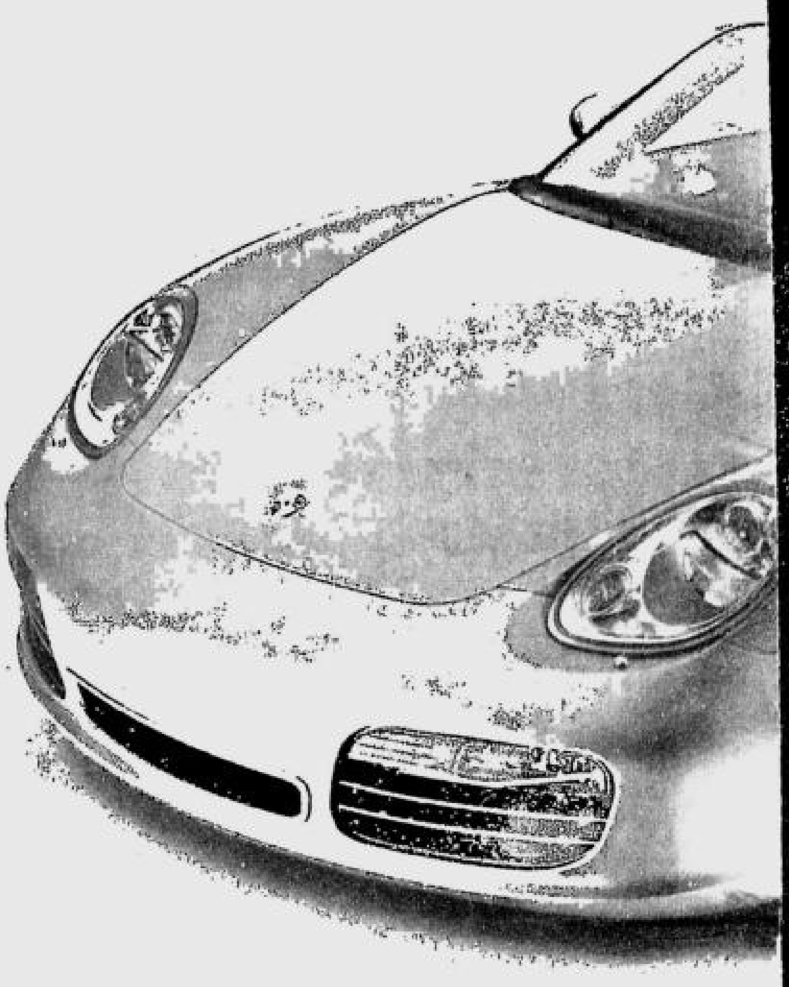

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Pampanga

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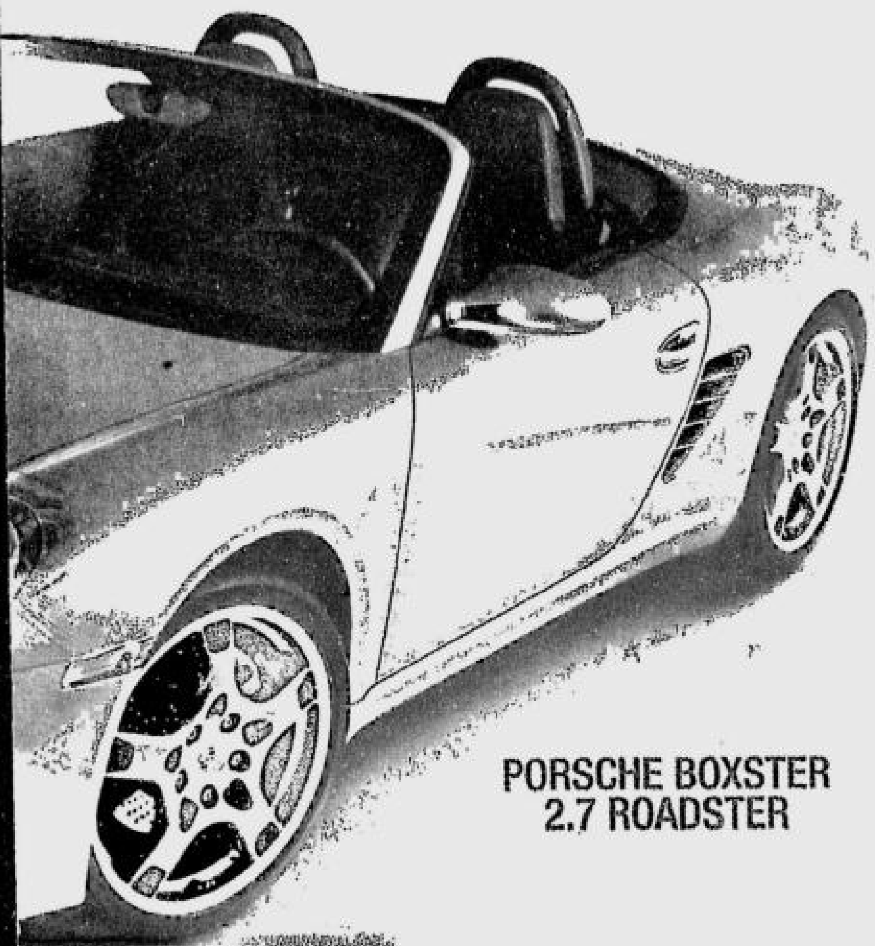

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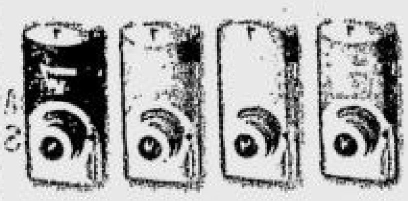

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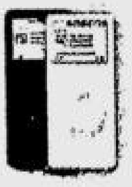

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Aklan

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Cebu City

VALENCIA, MELVIN FRANCIS A.
Tuguegarao

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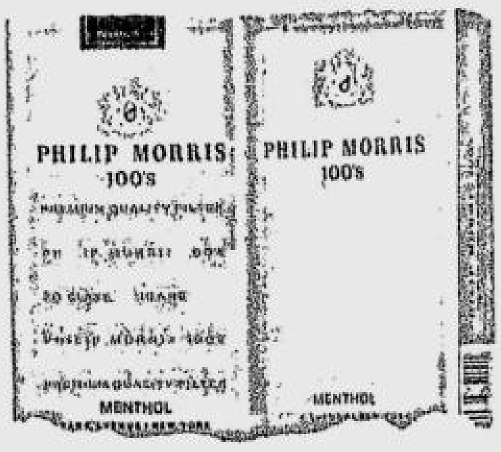

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Door to nowhere

INCENSE WAS USED IN ANCIENT ISRAEL TO COVER up the stench of the burning flesh of sacrificial offerings. The Catholic Church uses it to symbolize the Kingship of Christ, to represent the Mass as a "new and perfect sacrifice," and to represent the prayers of the faithful wafting up to heaven. In the political sense, to incense something is to becloud an issue with rhetorical smoke to cover up a stink.

EDITORIAL

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye did the official incensing, after the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines issued its latest pastoral statement. "The government welcomes and ponders with humility and sincere appreciation the moral counsel from the pastoral letter. The message offers many points of agreement and shared objectives between the government and the Church," he said.

We have to wonder, considering the overall tone and content of that pastoral statement, what those "many points of agreement" are. We can think of only one: the ambivalence of the bishops with regard to this year's impeachment complaints, which leaves the administration in the agreeable position of enjoying the status quo.

But what did the bishops say? In their statement, the bishops made two points that they asserted to be their "clear and unambiguous" position on impeachment. First, in "all sincerity we respect the position of individuals or groups that wish to continue using the impeachment process to arrive at the truth." Second, "we are not inclined at the present moment to favor the impeachment process as the means for establishing the truth." As they explain it, this is because the bishops have discerned that "unless the process and its rules, as well as the mind-sets of all participating parties, pro and con, are guided by no other motive than genuine concern for the common good, impeachment will once again serve as an unproductive exercise, dismaying every citizen and deepening the citizen's negative perception of politicians—Left, Right and Center."

Clearly, then, the underlying message is that the last impeachment effort in 2005 so debased and discredited our political institutions that the bishops have to wonder if the country can afford more of the same. What would be required, in their view, for a credible impeachment effort would be rules that foster, and don't impede, the actual airing and deliberation on the charges, instead of legal gymnastics involving dates of filings and the manner in which the complaints have been drafted. Add to this their view that supporters of President Macapagal-Arroyo would have to examine the complaints on their merits alone, unimpeded by blind loyalty to Malacañang, and that the political opposition and other critics would have to set aside personal ill-feelings and even partisan interests, and the near-miraculous nature of what is required becomes clear. Ironically, these men of the cloth seem skeptical of such a political miracle taking place.

Which is, to be fair, something most supporters of impeachment have admitted all along. They see little hope the charges will prosper, but still cling to the hope that airing them at least helps them comply with their civic duties. Defenders of the President seem to be uninterested in any lesson in civics. Which is why Malacañang can praise their being condemned, in a sense, by the bishops. Moral criticism, if not backed by political action, can always be shrugged off or damned with faint praise.

When House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, speaking for the opposition, asked, "If they favor (the) search for the truth but not through impeachment, then through what means?" he reflected a reasonable puzzlement over the matter. In trying to be unambiguous, the bishops have introduced a new kind of ambiguity. How, indeed? Senate investigations have been blocked. Proposals for an investigative commission haven't prospered.

Majority Leader Prospero Nograles tried to be helpful: "The House or Congress is not a correct venue to find guilt or innocence. It's the courts that will decide guilt or no guilt, not Congress in an impeachment case because Congress decides, as a policy, whether good or bad, to remove an official," he said. Which means, for now, underlings can be charged in court, but the President of the Philippines can look forward to being immune from suit until 2010, and beyond political accountability with regard to impeachment. The truest meaning of "win-win," perhaps? For her, though not for the country.

The bishops opened a door to nowhere, and perhaps that is the most discouraging thing about their statement. It proves that the country is nowhere closer to a resolution of the crisis of legitimacy.

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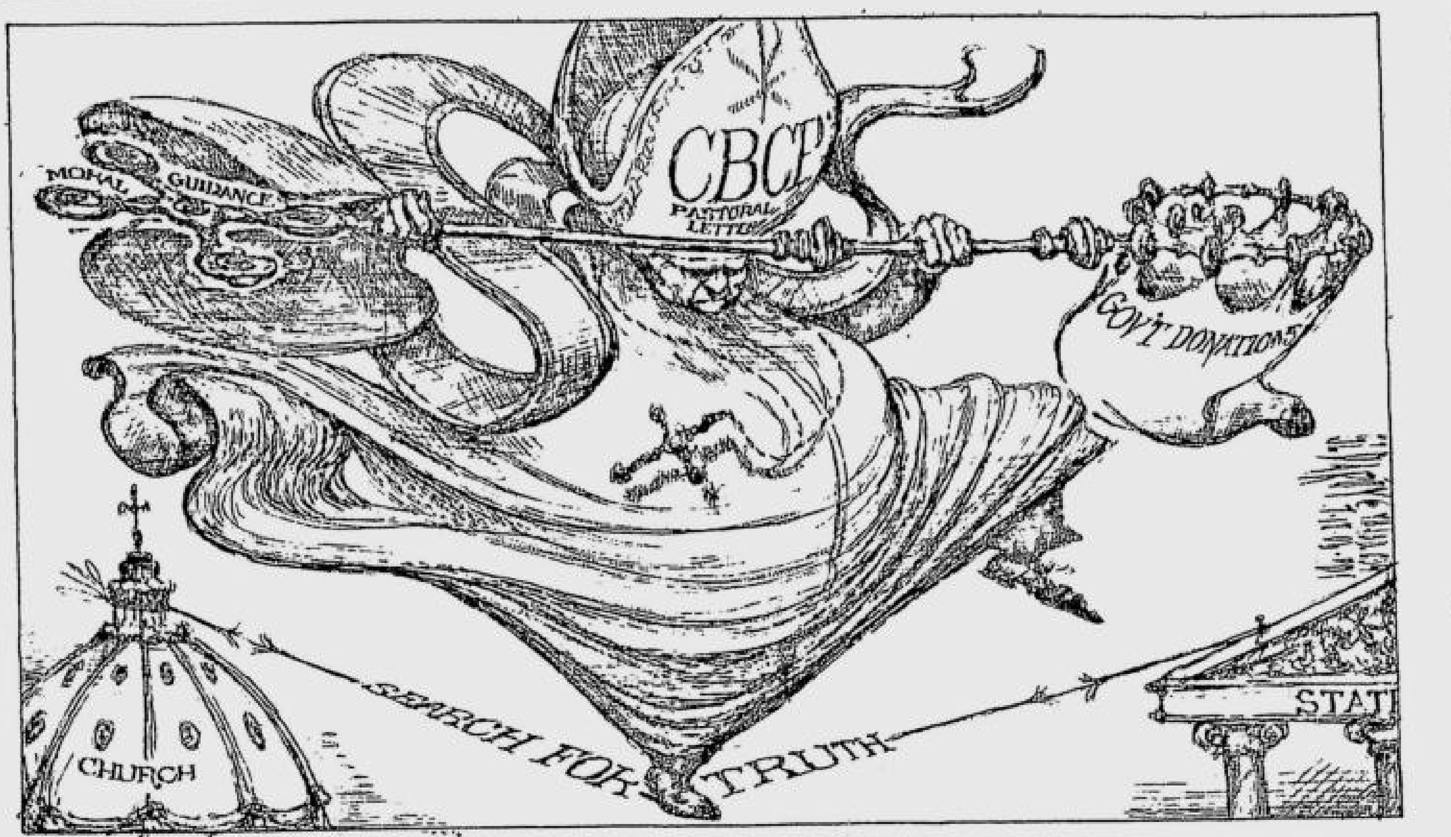

Is Maynilad overcharging its customers?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE PASTORAL STATEMENT OF THE Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), refusing to endorse the impeachment of President Macapagal-Arroyo, is a model in fence-sitting. The Tagalogs have a word for it: *kabaklaan*, which means neither here nor there.

In its pastoral statement, the 124-member CBCP said the impeachment process would be an "unproductive political exercise" in determining the truth. At the same time, however, it said it favored the search for the truth behind charges against GMA and that it respected "the position of individuals or groups that wish using the impeachment process to arrive at the truth." Yet it added that "we are not inclined at present to favor the impeachment process as the means of establishing the truth."

What do you make of that? Appears like double-talk to me. As far as I can make it out, the CBCP favors the "search for the truth" but it does not favor the "impeachment process to get to that truth."

How then do the bishops plan to get to the truth? Impeachment is the only constitutional process left for our people to find out the truth. All other processes have been shut out by the Arroyo administration and its political lackeys. Perhaps the bishops prefer the truth to be tortured out of GMA and her cohorts? Or do they expect her to have an attack of conscience and tell everything in the confessional? There can never be an "attack of conscience" unless there is a conscience to attack, and the present Malacañang occupant has none.

Perhaps the good bishops want a repeat of Edsa I and Edsa II where the sitting presidents were both chased out of Malacañang, illegally, by a rabble. In the case of Edsa II, the cohorts of President Joseph Estrada prevented the impeachment process from arriving at the truth. And so the prosecutors walked out, illegally, and went to Edsa—which seemed to me to be a premeditated move—to achieve by violence (or the threat of one) what could not be achieved by the constitutional process of impeachment. Is that what the bishops want?

* * *

Malacañang has a new name for "bribes," a device that it has been using successfully to get what it wants from congressmen, local government officials, private mercenaries and others with low intestinal fortitude. The new name is "aid."

It said that the gifts of rice, medicines and foodstuff they give to bishops are not "bribes" but "aid" for distribution to their constituents. A case of hair-splitting, really. By whatever name you call it, the purpose and effect are the same: to court the bishops.

Why else would they course aid to the poor through the bishops when there are social welfare agencies, health agencies and other public officials in every municipality? Why single out the bishops for this generous aid?

Is it because there are bishops who are not happy with GMA? Was it because the CBCP was going to hold a meeting to decide on its stand on the new impeachment complaints?

As you can see, the courting was successful: the CBCP did not endorse impeachment. It sat on the fence.

When the bribe was exposed, the bishops were divided whether or not to accept it. Is this another case of the spirit being willing but the flesh weak?

Members of the clergy have a big responsibility. The Catholic faithful look up to their bishops, priests and nuns for leadership. And they have to exercise leadership, and guide their flocks through the rocks and shoals of their faith. Their followers expect them to be steadfast and true always, free from the human frailties that others are heir to. They cannot let the people down.

* * *

Is Maynilad Water Services Inc. so desperately distressed financially that it is trying to cheat its water consumers? Artist Fernando Sena of San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City, thinks so. He wrote to this column to complain about his water bills and to warn the public against overbilling.

"Yesterday, I received the MWSI bill for June 6 to July 6, 2006," he wrote, "with consumption of 63 cubic meters amounting to P1,562.34 (Acct. 51987439). I was shocked to read this billing because, based on my daily reading since January this year, I have consumed only 37 cubic meters from June 6 to July 6, 2006, computed by deducting the 4,109 previous reading from the 4,146 present reading."

What happened? The MWSI reading showed the same 4,109 previous reading but there was no present reading. Instead, the consumption was listed as "AVERAGE." And that average was placed at 63 cubic meters.

Luckily for him, Sena was listing down his monthly water consumption on a calendar, so he had proof of the overbilling.

"I went to the MWSI office on Del Monte Avenue to complain," he continued, "showed them my calendar. When they saw the calendar, they said '*ina-average nila ang* reading.' They asked me to pay only a partial amount of P700 and '*aayusin na lang daw nila ang* billing' next month.

"My point of telling this to you is to advise the public to list down their water meter reading every day and even the Meralco readings *para alam nila ang* consumption *nila*.

"*Paano po 'yung di nag-reread ng* meter, *di lugi po sila dahil bayad sila ng bayad kahit walang batayan ang* billing? *Paano kung umuwi ng probinsiya ang maybahay ng* three weeks, *e kung* average bill *ang gagawin nila e di lugi ang* consumer?

"*Kung sa bawat* consumer, *ipagpalagay nating* P50 *ang dagdag sa* bill, *a di malaking pera po ang kita nila. Paano po kung* P200 *or* P500 *bawat* consumer *ang dagdag, a di mas malaki and mapupunta sa* MWSI?"

Irony

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE FUNNY THING IS THAT ARCHBISHOP Angel Lagdameo, head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, prefaced his organization's stand by saying, "We wish to make the CBCP position clear and unambiguous on the present impeachment plans." The last thing the wording of that position is is clear and unambiguous. It is in fact so cloudy and ambiguous it has given rise to all sorts of misinterpretations.

Malacañang, in the form of Ignacio Bunye, immediately spun Lagdameo's statement by saying: "On the matter of impeachment, we concur with the bishops that impeachment is not the current way toward change and resolution in our current political concerns."

The announcers of ANC also said something along those lines immediately after Lagdameo read the CBCP position: "The CBCP," said one, "does not support impeachment as a way of establishing truth."

I myself got a lot of calls and text messages from dumbfounded friends wondering how the CBCP, given that its leadership has been wrested by progressive minds from reactionary ones, settled for this. I myself suspect the wording of the position, if not the position itself, is the product of much compromise, reflecting the continuing divisions within that body. And I myself believe the revelations of Archbishop Oscar Cruz that Malacañang tried to buy off the bishops and think they succeeded (in)famously with some of them.

But what is the CBCP really saying, or suggesting, in this confused and confusing way? The two paragraphs relating to impeachment go:

"We are undoubtedly for the search for truth. Therefore ... we respect the position of individuals or groups that wish to continue using the impeachment to arrive at the truth.

"But as Bishops, reflecting and acting together as a body in plenary assembly, in the light of previous circumstances, we are not inclined at the present moment to favor the impeachment process as a means for establishing the truth. For unless the process and its rules as well as the mind-sets of all the participating parties, pro and con, are guided by no other motive than genuine concern for the common good, impeachment will once again serve as an unproductive political exercise, dismaying every citizen, and deepening the citizen's negative perception of politicians."

Well, the CBCP's reaffirmation of its commitment to the quest for the truth—which can't mean anything else in the context of impeachment than the truth about the 2004 elections—indicates at least that the issue about GMA's legitimacy has not been settled in the bishops' minds. The CBCP continues to support every effort to ferret out that truth, not least by citizens' initiatives, such as those taken by Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez et al. to impeach GMA.

The operative phrase in the second paragraph is "in the light of previous circumstances." What the CBCP rejects is not impeachment per se but the kind of travesty we have been treated to in the past and we are bound to be treated to in the future. That is Congress overseeing impeachment with the expected results. That process won't establish the truth. That process can only be an unproductive political exercise, which will deepen the public's already deep distrust of politicians.

Lagdameo himself made that clear afterward: "The CBCP will not support an impeachment process if it will be done in the same way as it was done before." In short, what the CBCP is indicting is not impeachment, it is Congress, albeit, for quite understandable reasons, in a veiled way.

Having said this, however, the CBCP may not altogether be exculpated from dereliction of duty. At the very least, at a time when a confused flock is looking to it for guidance, the least it can do is not confuse it some more. A clearer and more emphatic reaffirmation of the importance of morality in public life was due them. If not indeed a clear and more emphatic statement about the need to resolve the legitimacy of government.

But more than that, as friends of mine have argued, couldn't the bishops have helped to guide the mind-sets of the participating parties toward a genuine concern for the common good, or at least a fear of God or the faithful in next elections, precisely by supporting an impeachment bid in Congress? Couldn't the collective voice of the bishops have been brought to bear on the congressmen to rethink their allegiance to Mammon rather than to God by suggesting that God will not look kindly on those who help themselves to the ballot boxes? The bishops' support for impeachment might not guarantee a change of heart among congressmen, not least because many of them have no hearts to change, but life offers no guarantees, only struggle.

And still more than this, if the CBCP is not supporting the kind of impeachment process we have to establish the truth, what efforts is it supporting by way of accomplishing that? Of course, answering that question invites questions about the separation of Church and State, but if you're going to talk about matters of faith and morals in public life anyway, why not hang for a sheep as for a lamb? It cannot be unknown to the bishops that the one burning issue in the minds of the faithful is: What do we do about someone who stole the vote? The way the CBCP has answered it opens itself up to charges that it's basically saying, "*Bahala na kayo diyan*. We ourselves can't do a thing about it." Or worse, "*Pasensya na*, we just want to play safe."

That is the richest irony of all. The bishops worry that by going through another unproductive political exercise we will only encourage the public to distrust politicians some more? They should worry that by taking the wishy-washy position that they have, they will only encourage the (un)faithful to distrust the clergy some more.

Used and dropped quickly

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE BROADCAST LAST WEEK OF THE VIDEO showing Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim declaring his withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo has revealed a far more extensive conspiracy to grab power than what the government had presented when she declared a state of national emergency last Feb. 24.

The extent of the conspiracy unfolded after the broadcast (1) forced some parties involved in the conspiracy to reveal (betray is a better word) their cohorts, and (2) led some persons close to the military plotters to disclose to the press details of the conspiracy.

The administration has no reason to claim that the tape justified its proclamation of national emergency. The unveiling of a wider conspiracy that included supporters in business shows that the administration rests on a very fragile foundation. The video, according to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, had given the administration "confidence to use martial law powers that President Marcos used" if a similar event occurs in the future.

After the busting of the Feb. 24 coup plot, the government is far from safe. The days of coup plotting are not behind us. Although some of the people alleged to have been involved in the conspiracy to, euphemistically speaking, "withdraw support from Arroyo" are now on the run, the networks of coup plotters in both the military and civilian sectors have only gone underground. It will require a wide-ranging search to flush them out.

Thus far, this is the picture emerging after the broadcast of the video and the reactions that followed it:

1. There is nothing in the video to suggest that the Left was involved in the planning of the withdrawal plot. The revelations of Roy Señeres, who has cast himself in the role of a "patriot" in acting as a pivot man in recruiting prominent citizens to urge Lim to withdraw support, and the statements of Lim himself show that the plot mainly involved middle-class types, including businessmen and military people, without the participation of the Left. This evidence blasts Ms Arroyo's claim that PP 1017 aborted a Right-Left conspiracy. The evidence shows that the coup plot was a military Right-Centrist conspiracy. She has to discard this theory and invent new villains.

2. Lim now appears to be feeling that he had been betrayed by his middle-class cohorts (among them, Renato de Villa, Oscar Orbos, Iñigo Zobel, Antonio Cojuangco of ABC-5, and P.F. Cruz, who were all tagged by Señeres as some of those involved in the plot). He seems to feel that he had been used and that when the plot was discovered, he was left twisting in the wind to face the consequences. They all have washed their hands and denied any kind of involvement, including Cojuangco, in whose studios at ABC-5 the tape was reportedly read by Lim in the presence of witnesses. Cojuangco has to explain whether he was just an enthralled listener to the stirring histrionics of Lim in the studio.

Abraham Purugganan, a colleague of Lim in the 1989 bloody coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino's government, read Lim's predicament correctly. He told the INQUIRER Lim was only used by interest groups "just like what happened to us in 1989." He said, "It's always that way. We were used and then dropped hastily—hanging in the air."

An unidentified source interviewed by the INQUIRER, apparently making a spin in defense of Lim, laid out the line that by agreeing to appear in the video, the general had averted a bloody confrontation between troops who had planned to storm Malacañang and forces loyal to the President. According to this version, Lim talked the "hot-headed" and impatient troops into dropping the planned attack last Feb. 22, and offered the plan to read the videotaped message to "avoid bloodshed." The soldiers accepted this option, said the source. The video was taped on Feb. 23. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga is reported to have been shown the tape and briefed by Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin about the "peace march" to Makati where the tape was to be read on Feb. 24. At that stage, Senga was non-committal when they asked for his support.

Another story in the INQUIRER said that on Feb. 19 Lim, in a meeting inside Fort Bonifacio with junior officers who wanted to attack Malacañang, cautioned the officers "to make sure that you win." According to an INQUIRER source, Lim said, "I have nothing against (your) plan, but you must make sure of victory." At another meeting inside the camp, Lim "shouted in anger at the junior officers and told them the plan was a 'big risk'."

This is a plausible story. It shows that Lim learned from their experience in 1989, that when the government crushed the coup, the rebels were all left in the lurch. In all these versions, Lim comes out as a hero, who saved the nation from plunging into violence instead of liberating it from a hated regime.

3. With braggadocio, Señeres after the broadcast of the video, came forward to admit that he was among those who urged Lim to withdraw his support from Ms Arroyo. What is more revealing than his self-posturing is that Señeres rebuked his cohorts who had ducked the fall-out from the broadcast of the video. He said he felt bad that Lim had been left on his own. "I'm fed up, considering what he did is not illegal."

This reaction illustrates what Purugganan and Lim have bitterly bemoaned: that they had been used in 1989 by "interest groups" with their own agenda to promote.

Old people in love

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TWO MONTHS BEFORE THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING anniversary, the family matriarch (Gloria Romero) walks out on her husband (Eddie Garcia) and moves in with her widowed best friend (Marissa Delgado). As their children—Joey Marquez, Cherrie Pie Picache and Diana Zubiri—struggle to come to grips with this shocking development, they must also decide what to do with their warring parents who have both seemed to re-discover the joys of carefree youth and independence.

We Filipinos have so idealized marriage, especially enduring marriages, with the elderly couples enshrined atop pedestals where they're not allowed to show their human side, lest they shatter our illusions about everlasting love and endless devotion. But the reality is that marriage is a human institution, even if our moral betters insist it's divinely ordained, and being the frail creatures we are, we're bound to go through ups and downs, lose our patience and throw up our hands in despair.

This, apparently is what Gloria Romero's fed-up matron has decided to do. After almost 50 years of togetherness, she's decided she's had enough of her husband's stinginess, domination, control and mean-spiritedness. She's taking her cue from her best friend, who, after her husband passed away, has begun looking younger, acting more spritely and enjoying the benefits of being single again (like sudden trips to Bangkok and a hunky personal trainer).

Though he moans about his housekeeper's tedious menu and the sudden messiness of his house, Eddie Garcia, too, soon comes to grip with his abandonment. He begins to bar hop with a drinking buddy and soon brings home a bar girl, played with refreshing naturalism by Keanna Reeves, as his, uhmm, caregiver.

* * *

THEIR parents' separation, meanwhile, has thrown the three adult children for a loop. It doesn't help that all three are struggling with their own relationship issues. Marquez is a widowed dentist with two teenage boys, prematurely passing into old age. Picache is a devoted wife to a philandering husband (Christian Vasquez). While Zubiri is resigned to never finding her Prince Charming, even if she has been living with a photographer (Alfred Vargas) for the past two years.

Gloria and Eddie's marital crisis sends ripples through the rest of the family. And Picache and Zubiri, particularly, must discover what their mother's rebellion against social convention means for them, as her daughters, and as sisters sharing a common lot.

Joey Javier Reyes, who wrote and directed "I Wanna Be Happy," has created a funny, heartwarming, entertaining movie that zips along despite a few lulls here and there, and still manages to convey a message or two. The script bears Reyes' trademark zingers and lightning-quick exchanges, though they don't quite scintillate in some scenes, a failing, I would venture, of the actors assigned to deliver the lines rather than of the dialogue itself.

Of the cast, Gloria and Eddie certainly deserve much of the credit for moving the film along. Gloria obviously relishes a role that doesn't require her to act the latter-day Madonna (as in Virgin Mary, not the singer), but in the few scenes that require poignancy and vulnerability, she is highly effective and affecting. "Manoy" is also visibly relaxed here, delivering his lines with throwaway aplomb and relish. When the two of them are in the scene, they chew up the scenery and steal the movie from everyone else.

* * *

AMONG THE supporting cast, Picache is, as always, able and capable. Too bad the script doesn't give her much chance to flesh out her character, but in scenes where she's given ample time, she fills up the screen with her luminosity and honesty. In one particular scene, when she's telling her prayer group about her husband's latest act of public humiliation, she starts out tentatively, almost apologetic about the state of her marriage, and then transitions to a brave, decisive woman proud of the step she has taken.

It's an acting moment devoid of pretense or unnecessary drama, but still moving, maybe precisely because of Picache's restraint.

Zubiri seems to have sleep-walked through the movie, even if in her character, as the youngest child so fearful of rejection she has abandoned her fairy-tale dreams, she has a lot of material to work with. Her pace is matched by Vargas, who can't seem to work up the requisite romantic ardor. The movie slows down each time the story touches on the pair.

Perhaps to spice things up (and improve its box-office prospects), the movie is further brightened up by the inclusion of a slew of teen stars as the grandchildren. They do little to speed things along nor do they add complexity to the story, but they are decorative and lively and give the movie some youthful vibe.

* * *

STILL, this is an "old people's movie," but only in the sense that the leads are a pair of senior stars, something wholly unexpected from a local commercial film venture, and so welcome and worth encouraging.

"I Wanna Be Happy" reminded me of a Korean movie called "Too Young to Die," which also has for its leads a pair of septuagenarians. But while "I Wanna Be Happy" is a comedy, "Too Young to Die" is, would you believe, a sexually explicit film that explores old people's sexuality, proving that romance, attraction and loyalty are not the exclusive purview of the young, but remains relevant and necessary even among the very old.

At this point, I can only wish Reyes and producer Robbie Tan had ventured beyond the "sitcom" format and given Gloria and Eddie a chance to show a more complex portrait of a man and a woman growing old and yet remaining alive and vital. Then again, I suppose I should be grateful that "I Wanna Be Happy" was even made at all.

A US Army deserter in the Fil-Am War

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

IF YOU HAVE THE TIME TO OPEN THE US Library of Congress website and look under "American Memory," you will find Filipiniana online. Most engaging are very short films (less than a minute) on the Filipino-American War at the turn of the last century. Watching jerky, black-and-white shots of American soldiers chasing off the "Filipinos" is quite an experience, until background research reveals that some of the Fil-Am War films were not shot on location in the Philippines but done in New Jersey with Black Americans playing the role of Filipinos.

Now that we are celebrating 60 years of friendship with the United States and Japan, I try and look beyond the establishment of official diplomatic relations with other countries to the end of the 19th century, searching for Japanese and Americans who fought on our side during the Revolution against Spain and in the Filipino-American War. We have a list of Japanese military officers who served under Emilio Aguinaldo, but that requires further research for authentication. There were a number of Americans who deserted in the Philippines and joined Aguinaldo's army, but the details also have to be dug out of the past. Most intriguing is someone we find in Jose Alejandrino's memoirs, "La senda del sacrificio":

"Fagan was a Negro giant more than six feet in height who deserted the American Army, taking with him all the revolvers that he could bring, and who served in our forces with the rank of captain. He did not know how to read or write, but he was a faithful companion. He was very affectionate and helpful to me, going to the extent of carrying me in his arms or shoulders when I, weakened by fevers and poor nutrition, had to cross rivers or ascend steep grades. The services which he rendered to me were such that they could only be expected from a brother or a son.

"I had heard narrations of the feats of valor and the intrepidity of Fagan, but his most outstanding characteristic was his mortal hatred of the American whites. At the beginning, when our men did not know him yet very well, he asked them for the custody of several American white prisoners. Naturally, not knowing his intentions, they acceded to his petition. But later on, he reported to them that, because they were intending to escape, he was forced to kill them all. He was subjected to an investigation, but inasmuch as there were no witnesses to his act, they had to acquit him. From then on, they never permitted him to approach the prisoners, and some white deserters who were with Lacuna were warned to be careful when alone with Fagan. Undoubtedly, the Americans received information about these things and this must have been the reason Funston wanted him.

"They told me that when Fagan went with his guerrillas, whenever he was on horseback, it was a sign of advance or resistance, but when he got down from his horse, his soldiers already knew that it was the sign to retreat. I asked him the reason for this custom and he answered me that, while advancing in search of the enemy or while fighting, he did not want to tire unnecessarily his legs, but when it came to retreating, he had to leave the horse because his feet were faster than those of his horse. Besides, he could squeeze himself into and pass places which a horse could only go into with great difficulty.

"Fagan was very fond of carousals and drinking. In some of his escapades, he arrived in a small village on the banks of the Rio Chico of Pampanga. He looked for a guitar, and, with some members of his guerrillas, he began to drink and serenade the women of the place. When the night was already very late, he went to bed in a small hut, sleeping with a companion. After a short while, his companion woke him up, telling him that he was hearing footsteps and voices of Americans. Fagan, who was half-asleep answered that he was dreaming and that his fear induced him to hear and see visions. Inasmuch, however, as his companion insisted, Fagan reluctantly stood up to peep out of the window, and there he really saw that the hut was surrounded by Americans. He lost no time in jumping out of the window and, taking advantage of the circumstances that the Americans could not fire for fear of wounding their own men in the dark, he selected the site nearest to the forest and with a revolver he shot his way out and escaped.

"Fagan spoke Tagalog very vividly and lived in the camp with a woman. One morning, this woman presented herself to me crying and showing me one cheek bitten off and saying that Fagan had done it. I sent for Fagan and asked him what happened.

"I was only dreaming, he answered.

"He related to me that he had dreamed that he was being surprised by the Americans and, not having the intention to be caught alive, he resisted as much as he could with punches, kickings and bitings, but his fury against the enemy had been rained on his woman companion.

"When our surrender was effected, I really felt very sorry to have to leave Fagan. I left him some twelve rifles for his defense. Later on, I learned that the Americans put a price on his head and he was assassinated, according to versions, in the mountains of Bongabon."

Cheek-biting reminds us of Mike Tyson and should spur further research.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Two in one

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

SOME OF MY FRIENDS HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE length of my column, but I'm afraid there's little I can do here. I have to use my assigned space which as you can see goes lengthwise. Sometimes you'll find two Youngblood columns fitting in here, and on the other end of this spread, two main editorials. So I thought that for today, I'd experiment with a "two in one" column. That's two separate articles, but on topics that are related.

Many of my friends ask why I even bother to read the pastoral letters from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP). Many Filipino Catholics don't, and yet I think it is important that we do read and reflect on the letters, for whatever wisdom we can glean to guide us through the maze of our times.

Last year, at the height of the Garci scandal, I felt our bishops' pastoral letter was strong enough to warn President Macapagal-Arroyo of a restless nation, even as it urged us Filipinos to restrain ourselves. I felt it was a wise letter, and so this year, I was looking forward to another statement on the political situation.

I'm realistic enough to recognize bishops are politicians, too, playing a game like chess. Our bishops have power (even Ms Arroyo recognizes that), but I'm afraid their latest pastoral statement, notwithstanding the title "Shepherding and Prophesying in Hope," offers little to the nation.

On the moves to impeach the President, the statement says: "We are not inclined at the present moment to favor the impeachment process as the means for establishing the truth," mainly fearing that it will be another "unproductive political exercise, dismaying every citizen, and deepening the citizen's negative perception of politicians."

On the electoral reforms, they simply ask the President to take heed of calls for the resignation of some Comelec officials. Our bishops say they will support Charter change only through a constitutional convention, and they told the press the 2007 elections should push through. (It's telling that the pastoral statement itself refers to the 1907 elections, a point to which I will return later.)

On extra-judicial killings, they nod their heads, yes they're happening but there are also killings perpetrated by insurgents. That last point about killings by insurgents is valid, but the letter fails to recognize that the government which wields so much power, has done nothing to address the assassinations of activists and journalists.

Our bishops seem to have saved their strongest words to attack what they claim to be a siege on the Filipino family: "We are deeply troubled by attempts to legislate or make as state policy ideas that tend to weaken or even destroy the cherished religious values regarding the nature of life, the nature of marriage as union of man and woman, child bearing, the values formation of children, etc. . . We find them in pending bills about population, marriage and family, reproductive health, and sex education in schools."

Certainly, our bishops weren't referring to Ms Arroyo when they talked about the "state" here since the President has spoken out repeatedly against family planning and reproductive health, which will make Filipinos wonder: Has our bishops bartered the nation to save what they think is the Filipino family?

If our bishops truly care about the Filipino family, they would be supporting family planning and reproductive health programs in addition to vital political processes, the impeachment investigations included. Venting their ire on their own distorted perceptions of the reproductive health bill and sex education, they've lost sight of the real threats against the Filipino family, from the continuing massive export of Filipinos to the extra-judicial killings which have left literally thousands of orphans behind.

The CBCP statement comes through as cavalier, almost as if written in haste. The version I got, from the CBCP's website, is revealing in that it refers to the need to push through with the "1907" elections. Does that "lapse" speak of the time warp our bishops find themselves in, literally lost in another century?

'Tiis'

What is the nation to do without leaders, shepherds, prophets?

We could invoke the virtue, said to be propagated too by the Catholic Church, of *pagtitiis*, a mixture of patience and forbearance. It's been pushed mainly for women, who, abused and battered by their husbands, are counseled: "For the sake of the family, bear your cross" or "He's your husband, you have no choice but to make the best of the situation."

Our women have made an art of it, raising the children, running the family's affairs against all odds. There's strength, certainly, in *pagtitiis* and it's tempting to say the nation should see the suffering mother as a model, bearing with President Arroyo until 2010, or beyond. We hear that call constantly: "We have no choice."

But *pagtitiis* is not without its costs. It can be agonizing, sapping a nation of its will. To describe the dimensions of that pain, I thought of the Chinese word "*ren*," which is loosely translated into "patience" but actually comes closer to "*pagtitiis*." Curiously, *ren* is constructed from those words: the heart, and hanging over that heart, a knife. There's a cleft written across the knife to indicate restraint, but you can still feel the agony that comes with this Asian version of Damocles' sword.

Maybe *tiis* is stronger, the knife thrust in. *Tiis* is the feeling we have after we have been assaulted, again graphically described by another word, this time from slang, "tsugi", adopted from the "Tsug" in comic books used to describe a knife or a sword thrust with force into someone's body.

How should an assaulted, *tsugi* nation respond? We might want to learn from the Japanese, who have borrowed the Chinese word "*ren*" and combined it with another Chinese word which means "someone" or "a person."

When the Japanese borrow Chinese characters, they don't always use the same pronunciation and original meaning of the word. In Japanese then, the words for "agent" and "*ren*" produces "*ninja*." The original *ninja* were not assassins, as movies often depict them, instead, they were peasant warriors who could not become samurai. As their name implies, an effective *ninja* is someone who can be patient, who embodies *pagtitiis* but does so as part of a strategy.

It's an intriguing metamorphosis of meanings and should make us think: perhaps it's not a bad idea to be patient, to feel pain, if we have direction and discernment, guided by our moral compasses. If we need to hold back, to wait, let's do so like the *ninja*.

Making RP a vassal of Vatican

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo lost the moral ground to lecture local Church officials against engaging in politics when, in her visit to the Vatican, she presented to Pope Benedict XVI her program for constitutional change.

The Pope has a dual role: as head of state (the Vatican) and as a religious leader, that of the Catholic Church. The President made the Philippines appear as a vassal of the Vatican when she presented to the Pope her program for Charter change which is a political matter. As a foreign state, the Vatican has nothing to do with the internal affairs of our country. As a religious leader, the Pope was right in not making any comment on the issue of amending our Constitution in accordance with the Vatican policy of staying away from politics.

President Arroyo was quoted by the local press as saying that the Pope was "very appreciative of our policies." In saying this she apparently was trying to make it appear that the Pope had blessed her political agenda, including the plan to shift from the presidential to the parliamentary form of government. The Vatican media, which covered exclusively the Pope's reception of the President and her entourage (our own media were excluded from the meeting), did not mention any papal benediction of Ms Arroyo's "policies."

President Arroyo should always remember that in her foreign trips she represents the entire Filipino people. She should not make the Filipinos appear subservient to or mendicant before any foreign government; instead she should always uphold our dignity as a people. Without dignity, there cannot be any redemption.

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO,
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A small man with a big heart for the masses

I WAS IN THE GROCERY WHEN a friend broke the shocking news. Sotero Llamas, former New People's Army commander, National Democratic Front consultant and Bayan Muna's founding member and director for political relations, had been murdered. I burst into tears, oblivious of the staring people, as the image of a short, dark, asthmatic, jolly man with a boisterous laugh, flashed in my mind. The person I respected the most, my greatest teacher and dearest friend, was gone, brutally killed.

Ka Teroy and I met during his Bayan Muna days in 2001. We became very close friends since then. I served as his researcher-writer. Soon enough, I became his confidante and official biographer.

Last May 2, he was in Manila, along with two partners, for a business transaction. (He was into the scrap metal industry, where he would engage himself in manual labor, picking up soft drink cans on the street.) He was in his usual cheerful self. He spoke of his plans for his business, of becoming a university professor and of his life story turned into a movie.

Then his face turned grim, he was dismayed and alarmed that the government had included his name in its list of "enemies of the State." He said, "I have long tried to establish my legal status." Ka Teroy had resigned from the movement years before, ran for governor and lived a civilian life. "Now, they're resurrecting old cases against me. What more do they want?" he asked.

Ka Teroy said he was constantly under military surveillance. When asked why he refused to keep bodyguards or carry guns for protection, he replied, "I'm old. I have done what I could to serve my country well. I'm ready to die anytime, and if I do, make no mistake, the government is behind it. (It is) the only one with the motive—revenge!"

Ka Teroy was a celebrated NPA commander and comrade. His contributions to the leftist movement were enormous. He never incurred blood debts. He was one of the NPA leaders who did not participate in the Operation Missing Link. He helped numerous people in and out of the movement. He was a decent and devoted family man. Thirty-three years of service left him with an untarnished reputation.

There was no reason for the Communist Party of the Philippines to kill him. The CPP has simply nothing to gain from such a suicidal act. The claim of the military and police that the death squads of the CPP are hitting its own ranks is not credible. The government had better come up with a more sound and logical propaganda.

We vehemently condemn this one more act of cowardice by anti-Left elements who cannot face us fair and square. We demand justice for Ka Teroy and all other victims of extra-judicial killings. The state must put an end to this political genocide in the country.

Ka Teroy left a legacy of unselfish commitment to serve the people and a friendship to cherish. I shall never forget this very special little man who had a very big heart for the Filipino masses.

—JANICE S. CAMBRI,
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LGU welcomes help of League of Corporate Foundations

IT PLEASED ME TO READ THE INQUIRER report on the League of Corporate Foundations. (PDI, 7/4/06) I am a public servant whose sworn duty is to use all the resources of the local government for the benefit of its constituents, specifically in the fields of infrastructure, health and sanitation, livelihood, education, etc.

I believe that the INQUIRER is well aware of our people's plight and the difficulties and challenges our municipal government must face in our desire to deliver the basic services to our people. We are a community of 30,000 people, spread out in 14 barangays.

I write to commend the continuing commitment of the LCF to lend a hand to our people in their effort to achieve progress and development for their country and families.

—SAUDI B. AMPATUAN JR.,
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Is Ombudsman really serious about her job?

I READ WITH KEEN INTEREST the INQUIRER's July 22 banner story which was headlined "Why single out Borra?" Indeed, why single out this election commissioner for the P1.3 billion anomalous purchase of election counting machines from Mega Pacific? Considering the gargantuan amount involved, I'm sure money "changed hands" as bribes.

As a former member of Nationwatch, I attended an international anti-graft convention at the Asian Development Bank some time in the middle part of the 1990s. I learned from the delegates of "clean" countries like Finland, Sweden and Hong Kong, that they have effective laws on the forfeiture of ill-gotten wealth. According to these delegates, before they file any criminal or administrative case against public officials accused or suspected of corruption, they first seize their assets and forfeit them in favor of the government.

If the Ombudsman is serious about her job, she should do the same, so that the Comelec officials involved in the Mega Pacific deal cannot use their ill-gotten wealth to fight the government by hiring good lawyers, bribing investigators, prosecutors judges and justices; or (in the event that they are convicted) the parole officials of the Department of Justice.

I also challenge our legislators, if they are really serious in fighting graft and corruption in the government, to give more teeth to our laws on forfeiture and on the freezing of assets of corrupt officials (as their counterparts in progressive countries have done or are doing), so that there will be more public money to help our poverty-stricken people and to encourage foreign investors.

—PROCOPIO S. BELTRAN JR.,
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Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila

Likening Pacman to a hero

I WOULD LIKE TO correct Kristina Yatco. (PDI, 7/3/06) Manny Pacquiao does not make predictions regarding his fights, unlike Oscar Larios who vowed to knock him out by the second round.

And Pacquiao never claimed himself to be a hero. It is his countrymen, in fervent admiration of him, who liken him to a hero. During his fights, he unites Filipinos from all walks of life.

If Pacquiao has not contributed anything to improve our country's economy—how about Yatco?

—SHIRLEY P. BAGAYAS,
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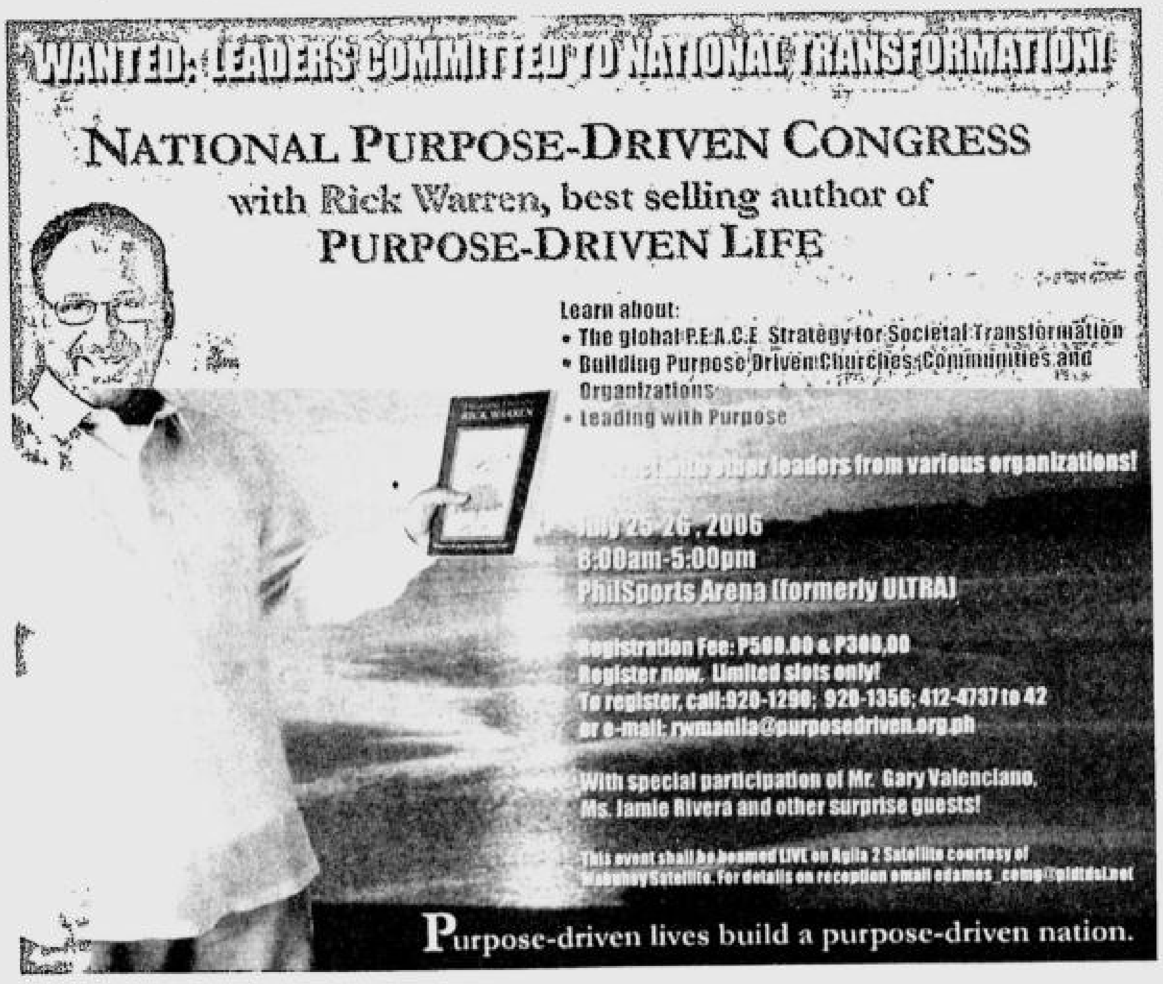

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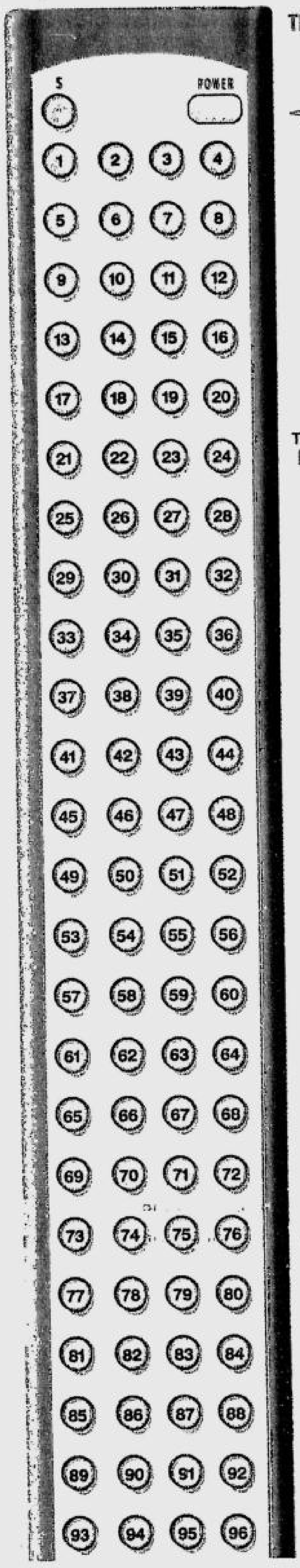

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Buffer zones separate rebs, militias

COTABATO CITY—A COMMITTEE MONITORING a truce between the government and separatist guerrillas in Mindanao started establishing what it said were demilitarized buffer zones to separate warring rebels and local militia units in three towns in Maguindanao province.

The clashes have ceased in the towns of Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano and Datu Unsay, giving government and non-government relief organizations the chance to reach out to families displaced by the fighting.

The towns became battlegrounds for the rebels and militiamen loyal to the province's governors and mayors.

The buffer zones were part of an agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's coordinating committees on the cessation of hostilities.

The two panels met with officials of an International Monitoring Team Sunday. The team was composed of Indonesians and Malaysian truce observers.

The joint ceasefire committees and the Malaysian-led IMT, headed by Malaysian Gen. Pahlawan Soheimi, had succeeded in separating the rebels and militiamen in Shariff Aguak, Datu Unsay and Mamasapano by establishing a border.

This was one of the measures instituted by the ceasefire committees and the IMT to stop the clashes that had displaced about 30,000 individuals in Maguindanao.

Military officials gave assurances that the militiamen will abide by local peace arrangements on condition that the rebels would not provoke new clashes.

Gen. Ramon Santos, chair of the government's ceasefire committee, said the buffer zones will provide the villages caught in the crossfire from June 28 to July 6 a protective circumference of demilitarized areas to be monitored extensively by representatives from the military and the MILF.

To ensure the local arrangement would be religiously followed by both sides, non-government organizations involved in monitoring the ceasefire agreement between the government and MILF were also allowed to observe the buffer zones.

The clashes in Maguindanao were triggered by the June 23 bomb attack against Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan that left seven people dead.

Government militias were pursuing two MILF field commanders believed to have masterminded the bomb attack, the fifth against Governor Ampatuan.

With the mechanism in place, Santos said the ceasefire committees and IMT's next step is to convince the displaced families to return to their homes.

Ruby Sahali-Tan, secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said most of the refugees still refuse to return to their homes for fear that clashes would again erupt. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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ROUNDUP

2 Indian nationals rescued

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police on Friday rescued two kidnapped Indian businessmen and arrested five suspects in Mabalacat town. Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Central Luzon police chief, said brothers Francis and Sanjo Singh, aged 23 and 25, were rescued as the suspects transferred them to another safehouse. Rafanan said operatives, led by regional police intelligence chief Senior Supt. Oscar Albayalde and Angeles City police chief Senior Supt. Policarpio Segubre, stopped the Hyundai van in which the suspects and the victims rode as it cruised along Barangay Camachile in Mabalacat at around 2:30 p.m. The suspects, identified as Armando Mondero, Alberto Loquihario, Romulo Javier, Eddie Lamego and Edgardo Garbo, did not put up a fight. They demanded P300,000 for the release of the Singhs, who were kidnapped at 8 p.m. on Thursday in their house in Angeles City. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

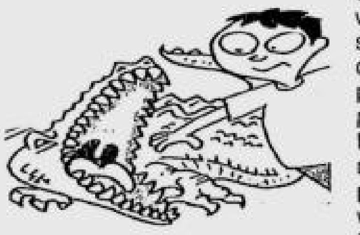
Drug addict kills mom

CITY OF MALOLOS—A 78-year-old woman was hacked to death allegedly by her own son after she refused to give him money for cigarettes in Barangay Longos here on Sunday, police said. Luisita Santiago was hacked in the head with a *palay* cutter, locally known as "karit" or "lilik," by Eliseo Santiago, 40, reportedly a drug dependent, police said. The suspect did not resist arrest when cornered in their house. He is now detained at the city jail and is facing parricide charges. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

2 murder suspects held

ROXAS CITY—Police on Monday arrested two suspects in the killing in Iloilo of two elderly spouses in Barangay Li-Ong, Roxas City. The two were identified as Joebert Aran, 29, of Sara town in Iloilo and German Lasquite, 22, of Maayon town in Capiz. A team composed of Sara and Roxas police units arrested the two who were sleeping in the house of one Elcy Oquendo. They were brought to the Sara police station to face charges for allegedly killing Ramon Ducanes, 75, and his wife Marlyn, 73, inside their homes in Sitio Nangka, Sara on July 6. The couple suffered several hack and bullet wounds. Revenge was the possible motive in the killing, police said. Aran admitted that he and Lasquite were around when the couple were slain but denied any participation in the crime. He said their two other companions were the ones who planned and killed the spouses. *Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Crocodile bites boy



COTABATO CITY—A 12-year-old boy was rushed to a hospital here when a seven-foot long domesticated crocodile bit his right arm while he was playing with it inside a residential compound in Kimpo Subdivision, Barangay Rosary Heights 13 on Saturday. Ramon Palmares, a Grade 3 pupil of Kimpo Elementary School, was alone when he made fun of the crocodile by throwing stones at it at the Arguilles premises, located near the school, Rosary Heights Barangay Chair Basilio Rosal said. In his second attempt, the crocodile snatched the boy's arm, prompting him to instinctively pull it back and cry for help, Rosal said, quoting the victim himself. "We were not aware that a crocodile exists in that house. It poses a danger to curious schoolchildren," Rosal said. Romeo Manzan, Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau director in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the crocodile owner is liable for the attack and has violated the law on wildlife protection. Under RA 9417, citizens are prohibited from catching, caring for and domesticating endangered animals. Neighbors said the owner was not around when the boy was attacked. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ARMM workers' demand

COTABATO CITY—While militant groups have been pressing for a P125-across the board increase, private workers in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) are only asking for a P10-P20 daily wage increase and some non-wage benefits, according to Lilian Ruth Cabanban, secretary of the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board. Private sector employees in the ARMM receive a minimum wage of P190 per day. "There was no opposition from the employers' side," Cabanban said. She said the board could come out with the decision anytime. Florante Sapalaran, management representative of the Chiquita Uni-Frutti Philippines in Maguindanao, said the management sector was suggesting an increase in other non-wage benefits such as insurance and hospitalization in addition to the wage increase being sought by the employees. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Girl recovered from nannies

COTABATO CITY—Police on Monday evening rescued a five-year-old girl from her two nannies, who abducted her from their home in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat. The two suspects were also arrested, according to Supt. Saiben Akmad, city police chief investigator. Akmad said Mercy Cabasag, a resident of Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat, and Lilibeth Sangreta of Ramon Magsaysay, Zamboanga del Sur, told police they only wanted to get back at the girl's grandmother, who had badmouthed them.
Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Nursing test scandal sparks Baguio street protests

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—NURSING STUdents and their parents braved heavy rains on Tuesday to march against a perceived cover-up of alleged cheating during last month's licensing examinations for nurses here.

About 60 marchers stopped downtown traffic, carrying banners that pose the question: "Are we producing incompetent nurses nowadays?"

Among the marchers were representatives of the 91 nursing school graduates, w' ɔ asked the Professional Regulation Commission to suspend members of the Board of Nursing until the PRC could determine who leaked the answers to the June 11 and 12 licensing examinations here to a nursing review center.

Mary Grace Lacanaria, chapter president of the Association of Deans of Nursing Schools in the Philippines, said the rally coincided with a PRC notice that a fact-finding team had started looking into their complaints.

But the complainants refused to testify before this body, until the PRC referred the matter to an independent fact-finding group, their lawyer, Cheryl Daytec-Yangot, said.

Yangot said they wanted the PRC to hold a transparent investigation.

Pressure from top officials of the Philippine Nurses Association to suppress the complaints and contain the scandal compelled the nursing students to go to the streets to draw public support, said Lacanaria, the dean of the Saint Louis University's nursing school.

The PNA wants to avoid jeopardizing negotiations with the American National Council of State Boards of Nursing for a Philippine testing center that will offer migrating nurse. the United States National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEx), she said.

Overseas work for nurses is widest in the United States, but the NCLEx requires additional expenses for migrating nurses.

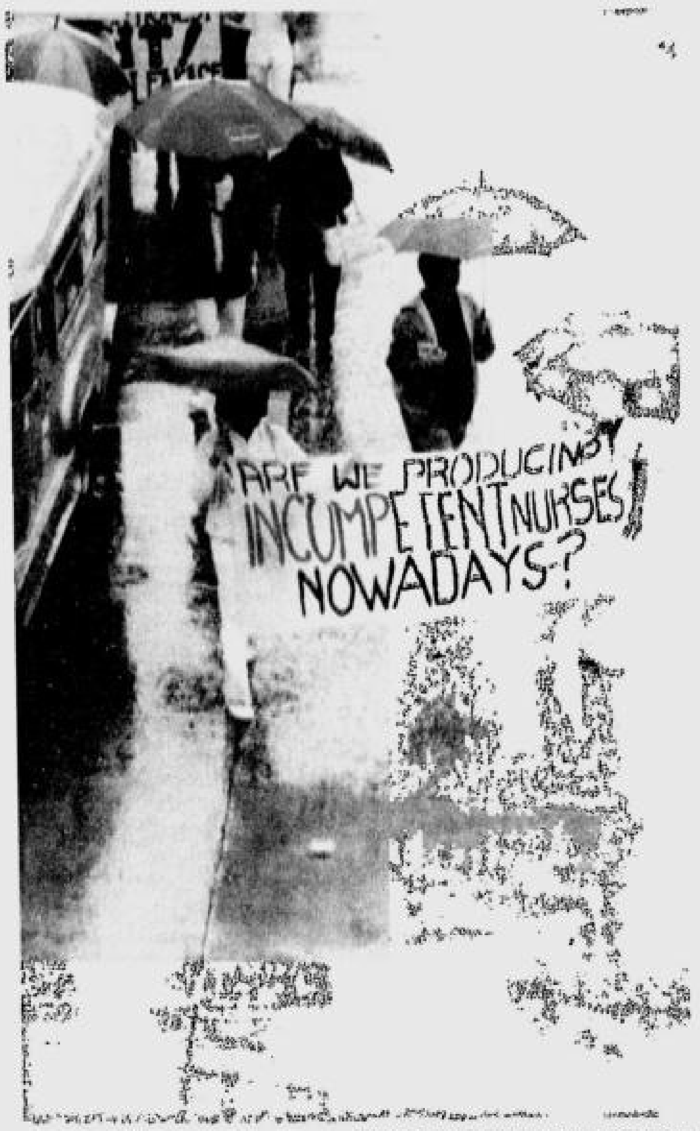
"But the NCLEx can come later. We must focus on our own [industry]," Lacanaria said.

She said the alleged cheating revealed that the Philippines has been exporting incompetent and unreliable professionals.

Cleaning up the licensing examinations today will keep the nursing industry's reputation of reliability and efficiency intact, Lacanaria said.

Parents who joined the march are organizing themselves into support groups to help restore their children's faith in the industry, said Elisa Peralta, mother of one of the complainants.

She said her son graduated with honors and had devoted most of his energies to reviewing for the board exams only to have his faith shattered by the reported cheating.



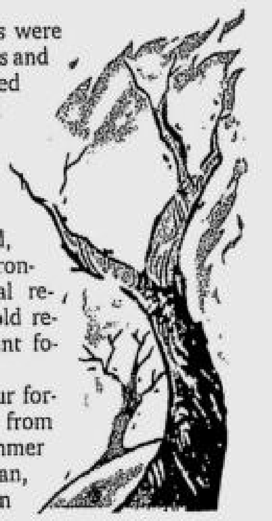
VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

NURSING graduates and their parents march in Baguio City to protest the alleged leak of board examination questions.

Fires destroy 2,800 has of Benguet forest areas

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE DEPARTment of Environment and Natural Resources' bid to protect forest covers in the province looked bad for the first half of the year as four major fires hit more than 2,800 hectares of forests and burned trees worth P34 million.

DENR officials said they were thankful for the onset of the rainy season as the weather had discouraged trekkers and campers whom they largely blamed for accidentally starting the forest fires.



"The forest fires were traced to picnickers and hikers who burned the debris piled from farming and agricultural activities in the mountains," Manuel Pogeyed, provincial environment and natural resources officer, told reporters in a recent forum.

He said the four forest fires struck from January to summer this year in Kabayan, Tuba and Itogon towns, damaging fully grown trees, saplings, seedlings and forest shrubs.

Pogeyed said the DENR had been unrelenting in its efforts to protect the province's forest cover, but limited personnel and the vast forested areas continued to hamper their hard work.

At present, he said, only 32 forest rangers cover an average area of 10,000 hectares of forest land each in the province.

Pogeyed said preventing forest fires and addressing the lack of manpower were some of the reasons that pushed the DENR to tap indigenous communities as local partners in forest protection and management.

The initial targets for the establishment of partnership schemes with indigenous communities, he said, were communal forests, watersheds and protected parks that host farms tilled by indigenous communities.

Pogeyed said the DENR was conducting relocation surveys to determine the exact boundaries of communal forests in La Trinidad, Bokod, Itogon, Tuba and Sablan towns.

"We hope to place boundary markers for all forests in the remaining eight towns of Benguet by the end of next year," he said.

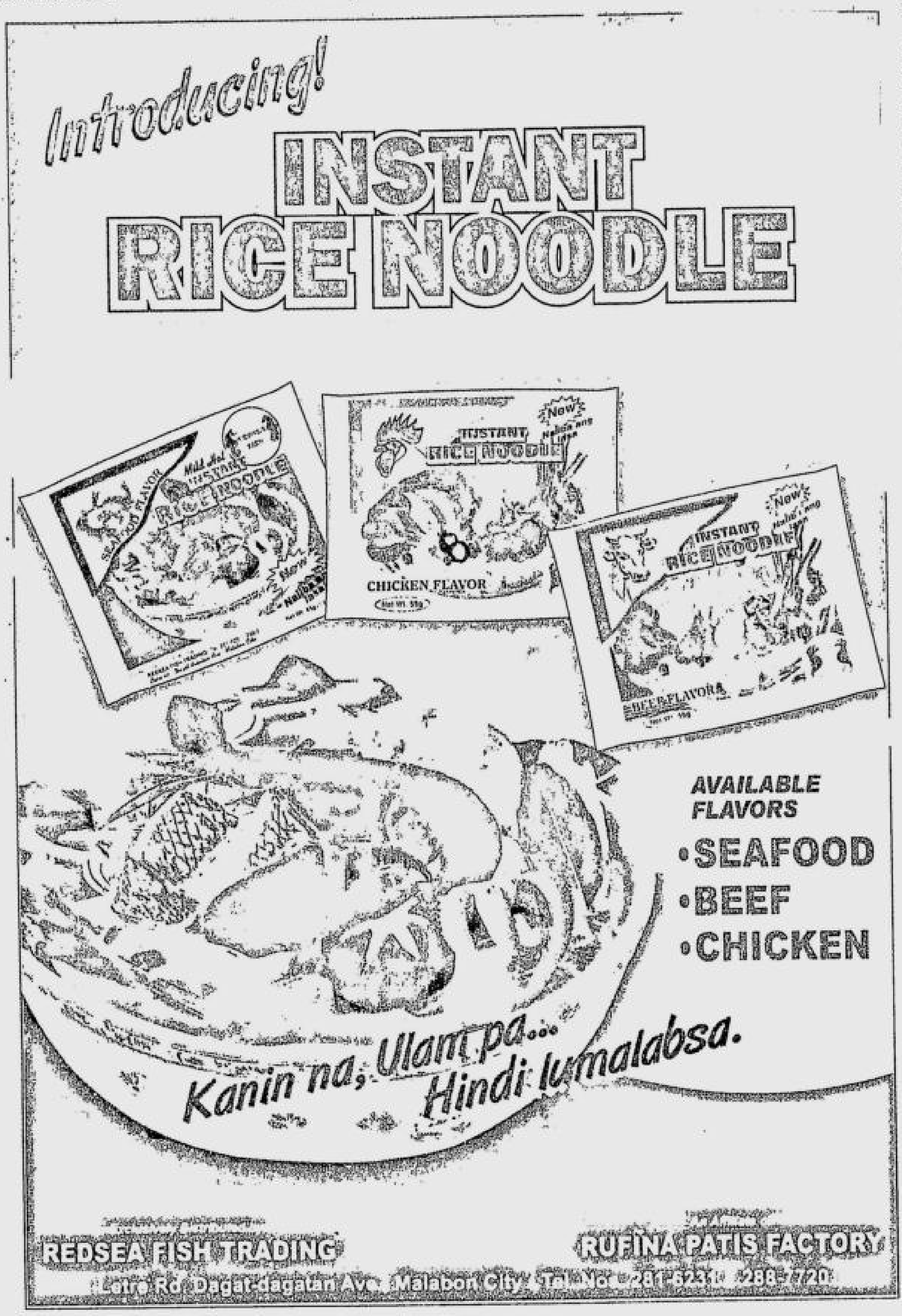
He said the focus of the co-management program, which would involve the local governments, would be the strict enforcement of forestry laws in prohibited and protected areas and the identification of forest portions where the communities would be allowed to cut trees and get their other forest needs.

To help forest rangers, the Department of Agriculture must provide horses to make them more mobile, said La Trinidad Councilor William Esteban.

"With horses around, forest rangers could regularly conduct forest patrols even into the deepest [parts] of the jungle," he said.

Pogeyed said farmers in the forests should not pile their debris during summer as these had proven to be attractive for burning for climbers.

Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau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Life flows from Salinas salt springs

By Melvin Gascon
Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya

WHEN WATER STOPPED FLOWING from the mounds of the Salinas salt springs in 1990, residents of the farming village of Salinas in Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya, struggled to cope with the reality that the natural wonder, once their community's pride and the province's revered symbol, might have finally met its demise.

Through the years, they gradually accepted the loss after geologists confirmed that the springs had deteriorated because of tectonic movements of the Earth's crust, triggered by the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that hit Northern Luzon on July 16, 1990.

Little did they expect that more than a decade after its "death," the salt springs will flow again to nourish the mounds and sustain life for them.

A 2000 geologic study commissioned by then Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani showed that the 1990 earthquake diverted underground water that used to flow into the springs. Since then, the whitish mounds jutting out of the forested mountainside in Sitio Bansing have gradually fallen into virtual oblivion.

The mounds were formed through millions of years by the continuous flow of a natural spring containing sulfate and carbonate salts, through a process similar to that of stalactites and stalagmites, according to geologists.

When the flow stopped, the mounds dried up, turned gray and lost the gleam that had endeared locals so much that their forefathers named the village "Salinas" (salt mines).

So instead of looking at ecotourism as a means for their place to gain progress and prominence, the villagers, composed mainly of Ilocano and Kalanguya settlers, had to go back to rice and vegetable farming, and agroforestry for their livelihood.

But in 2004, the villagers discovered that water still flowed from the Salinas salt springs.

New life

The slightly inclined tract of land below the mounds is now host to about 30 fishponds, laid out almost like the rice terraces of Ifugao. It allows naturally flowing water from the base of the mounds to cascade from one pond to the next.

The fishponds have since provided an alternative means of livelihood for people in the surrounding villages.

Farmers in the sub-villages of Bansing and Gracia used to plant only vegetables and rice. At first, they even considered the salty water from the springs a nuisance, as they believed it was stunting the growth of their crops.

In 2004, Glenn Mabunga, then Sangguniang Kabataan chair of Salinas, thought of impounding the free flowing salty water and converting this into fishponds. Mabunga, 22, saw aquaculture as a profitable venture to raise funds for their youth organization.

"People in the community were taunting me about the project because they thought freshwater fish like tilapia could not live in salty water," he said.

Nevertheless, Mabunga and a number of teenagers went on to dig two rectangular pools to a depth of about five feet, filled them with the water and dispersed tilapia fingerlings into the ponds.

When the SK members had their first harvest three months later, Mabunga had proven the skeptics wrong.

Esteban Pudiquet, 51, fisheries coordinator of the Bambang agriculture office, shared Mabunga's view. He bought a parcel of idle land in the area and converted this into fishponds.

"It was natural for us to hear negative comments about what we were doing. But when they saw how productive tilapia culture has become, others followed suit," Pudiquet said.

About 20 farmers now own and maintain fishponds below the mound and organized themselves into the Salinas Salt Springs Fisherfolk Association. Membership continues to grow, according to Pudiquet.

The fishponds come in various sizes—the small ones are about half the size of a volleyball court while others are as big as a basketball court.

THE SALINAS salt springs, though forsaken, still never fails to give life to its people. MELVIN GASCON

A species that was found capable of adapting to the salty water is the Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*), which is said to grow as big as an adult's palm. Farmers buy tilapia fingerlings from the Central Luzon State University in the Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija.

Best tasting

Bambang Councilor Rachel Magday-Itchon said tilapia harvested from Salinas were the best-tasting available in the market, primarily because these did not have the earthen taste (*lasang putik*) that is common among tilapia grown in other areas.

"Consumers are now starting to look for that 'tilapia from Salinas' because it is said to be clean, and with the meat that is slightly salty," she said.

Pudiquet said the salt content of the water somehow hardened the soil on the pool's bed and this reduced murkiness of the pond and kept the water clean.

Farmers have begun introducing *ulang* or freshwater giant shrimp (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) and African *hito* or catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*).

"Our next program is to have *bangus* (milkfish). The semi-brackish water of Salinas has a salinity level of 11.7, which passes the threshold for *bangus* growing," Pudiquet said.

The construction of fishponds is a welcome development, too, for tillers of rice lands below, as water impounded in the dams assures them of year-round irrigation supply, especially during the summer months when water from the mountains becomes scarce.

"We have forged an agreement that whenever they (farmers) need to augment their irrigation needs, we will release water from our ponds," Pudiquet said.

Paciano Delizo, 65, Salinas village chair, attests to the fact that *tilapia* aquaculture has greatly improved the lives of villagers.

"This is why we in the barangay council have set up plans on how we can sustain these projects. One important aspect of our efforts is the protection of the watershed forest, in order to keep the springs from flowing," he said.

The gift of another chance in Baguio

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

PAINTER ROMEO ROSETE did not discover art until he saw his sister Gloria, a medical student at the Far Eastern University (FEU), drawing human anatomy. He copied what she did and got so good at it that he became the artist of the Tarlac High School's campus paper, The Melting Pot. With pen and ink, he illustrated short stories and editorials.

The valedictorian of the San Nicolas Elementary School, Rosete was a so-so student in high school. He found joy in drinking alcohol and engaging in quarrels.

His father warned him that unless he changed, Rosete would not be sent to college in the big city. Vowing to mend his ways, he enrolled in pre-medicine at FEU.

Before he reached his fourth year, the course was dissolved. He signed up for chemistry. He fell in with gangmates who skipped classes and drank alcohol. Rosete did not attend his ROTC (Reserved Officers' Training Course) classes so the next school year he could not enroll.

He told his father that he would shift to fine arts but did not tell him about not being allowed to enroll. Gloria came to his rescue, paying a semester's worth of fine arts schooling.

He felt cramped in the advertising program. He wanted to paint. Teacher Danilo Dalena told him to follow his heart: "All the schools are the same. It's up to you to run your life. If you do not hone your craft, nothing will happen."

Rosete moved to the Philippine Women's University. He found the art materials expensive. He joined and won art competitions, bringing home from P1,500 to P3,000. The money went to art materials and drinks at the old Kola House in Ermita, Manila.

Men of Women's

He excelled in portraiture, landscape and abstracts. He joined his first group show with Rafael Cusi, Danny Sibayan and Ramon Doplon at the Wall Gallery in Manila. The exhibit title was "We Men of Women's."

Rosete showed watercolors of a squatters' colony in Pasay City and called his series "Siyanti," a play on the word shanty.

He dropped out of the PWU but continued painting till he was asked to join the Center for Young Artists. With him were Antipas Delotavo, Edgar Talusan Fernandez, Cusi, Doplon, Sibayan, Renato Habulan, Heber Bartolome and Jess Abrera.

Rosete met PWU nutrition major Maria Magdalena Español and fell in love with her. They had no plans of getting wed because he thought an artist should not have a baggage. He says, "But fools rush in." Rosete was 26 and Español, 20. They hid from her parents' wrath by living in with Rosete's relatives in Tarlac, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija and Isabela.

They finally got married at the Aglipayan Church in Isabela with his mother's old coins serving as arras and her antique rings as wedding rings. Español wore a loose housedress. Rosete was in slippers.

Christmas cards

The couple returned to Tarlac. Rosete bought and raised chickens, selling them to pay for his wife's delivery. In 1979, Romeo Jr. or Bumble was born. In 1981, Romeo Jose III or RJ followed.

To raise money for the baby's milk, Rosete made and sold Christmas cards for P20 each.

Cusi visited them and left watercolors and paper for Rosete. That made him paint again. His colors were dark so galleries rejected his works.

Rosete then painted flowers. He left Tarlac for Manila with one-way transportation fare, lugging his paintings. If he was able to sell, he had money to return home. If there were no sales, he called up friend Linc Drilon, who told him, "Hop into a taxi and come to my house. I'll take care of you."

Rosete sold paintings to Mario Alcantara of the Heritage Art Center. Alcantara invited him to bring more works so Rosete had a steady income. Another baby was born—Rosette Marjaleena or Sunshine. Despite the optimistic nickname, the period was one of hardship.

Painting with baby

Rosete painted with one hand while cradling the baby with another. His wife was doing the laundry. He balanced the baby on his knees and painted. If the baby woke up, the father put his brush down and played with her. If the baby cried, he stopped painting. Once the child fell asleep, he took up the brush again.

In 1988, Christine Faye was born. Gloria built a house in Baguio City. Her youngest sister Luz stayed there. Beside it was another house rented out to Rosete's family. He took a liking to the mountain city and left Tarlac to raise his family up north.

Gloria built a bigger house, and Rosete's family occupied the smaller house. The house was damaged when the 1990 earthquake struck. His family camped out on the street.

Because classes were suspended, he kept his children busy with paper, pencils and pens. Before long his kids won national art contests.

He did not want his children to become artists "because an artist's life is hard." Still, RJ enrolled in fine arts at the University of the Philippines Baguio and won a prize in the Petron art contest but dropped out.

Sunshine finished medical technology at the Saint Louis University, placed ninth in the board exams in 2005, and teaches at the University of Baguio.

Bumble works at a call center. He paints on the side. Faye majors in accountancy at the SLU. Romeo Christo is a senior at the Baguio City National High School.

Rosete dreams of mounting a family show. But his children use his materials so their colors come out alike. "That's not good. The children should have their own palettes," he says.

THE AUTHOR, a University of the Philippines journalism graduate, lives in Baguio City.

ROSETE and one of his works EV ESPIRITU

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GMA foes admit bishops' impeach stand a big blow

By Michael Lim Ubac

OPPOSITION LAWMAKERS YESterday conceded the refusal of the bishops to support their impeachment campaign was a blow to their efforts but said this did not mean that President Macapagal-Arroyo was off the hook.

The President's loyal supporters in Congress welcomed the CBCP statement, saying it knocked the moral basis out of the opposition bid to oust Ms Arroyo.

"It cannot be denied that their decision not to support us is a loss for now but this will not delay or lessen the determination of those pushing for impeachment," House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said in Filipino.

Bukidnon Rep. Teofisto Guingona III said the CBCP's refusal to support the impeachment process "does not spell absolution for GMA (President Arroyo)."

"There is no escape for her. The truth will come out by all means. And she will be held accountable to the people," said Guingona, whose father, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., was among those who filed an impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

Only peaceful process

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said the motive of impeachment proponents "cannot be ascribed to power."

He said those seeking Ms Arroyo's removal saw the impeachment process as necessary in the quest for the truth.

"The courts are not the correct venue for truth-seeking because an incumbent President cannot be taken to court."

Deputy House Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said the CBCP's stand to continue the search for the truth but not through the current impeachment effort was "understandable" as people were frustrated with the political process.

"But what is the alternative? We welcome any process which will bring out the truth but lacking that process, impeachment is the only constitutional, legal and peaceful process," said Cayetano.

The party-list group Bayan Muna said the "CBCP turned its back on the people" because its pastoral statement was "a virtual exoneration and endorsement of this sham presidency."

'Real prophets'

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano said: "People power remains not only an alternative but a legitimate and politically correct way in achieving truth and justice. With this, the real prophets will rise from the ranks of the ordinary people."

Speaker Jose de Venecia said the CBCP statement calling the new impeachment process an "unproductive exercise" put the House majority on a "high moral ground" to kill the impeachment drive.

"The CBCP statement has removed the moral basis for the new impeachment complaints against the President," said De Venecia.

House Deputy Majority Leader Antonio Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur said the CBCP's position was a "validation of the nil chances for the impeachment's success, with the opposition itself doubting it can garner the numbers to push the multiple complaints."

Truth already known

Rep. Rodito Albano III of Isabela said it was a "mortal political sin to impute negative motives" to the CBCP's decision not to support the impeachment cases against the President.

He said the CBCP's collective position was clearly explained and worthy of respect as a product of enlightenment and discernment.

Malacañang said the truth the opposition was seeking was already known.

"We think the truth has in fact been established that the President had won fair and square and [her victory] was reflective of the will of the people," said Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Gabriel Claudio. "We need not look for alternatives." *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

CBCP statement: From 'we reject' to 'not inclined'

From page A1

iar with the deliberations.

He said the bishops were wary that people supporting or opposing the impeachment might once again use the CBCP position for their respective political interests.

The apprehension explained why the 89 active bishops in attendance agreed to prune down the item on impeachment to just two paragraphs. The source said the item originally contained about three more paragraphs, which, many bishops felt, might only sow confusion.

The general sentiment, the source said, was that bishops were "not against" the impeachment process as a way of knowing whether Ms Arroyo manipulated the 2004 balloting.

"Our concern was mainly on the fact that the same people with the same interests would be running the impeachment process so it's not difficult to anticipate the outcome," he told the INQUIRER yesterday on condition of anonymity.

"We were just looking for the right words, for the proper styling of sentences so as not to make it appear that we are against impeachment because we are not."

In the end, he said the body agreed to the statement that "we are not inclined at the present moment to favor the impeachment process as a means of establishing the truth."

From 'reject' to 'not inclined'

Sought for comment, Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez yesterday said the sentence originally contained the word "we reject" instead of the phrase, "we are not inclined."

Iñiguez, who last month joined an opposition impeachment case against Ms Arroyo, said he opposed the original wording because it contradicted the preceding statement, saying that the CBCP was "undoubtedly for the search of truth."

Like Iñiguez, the CBCP source invited the faithful to objectively look at the entire, eight-page pastoral statement, particularly the two paragraphs devoted to the impeachment controversy.

The paragraphs noted that the CBCP was merely cool to the idea "at the present moment" primarily because of fear that the exercise would also be "futile," if not, "railroaded" like the previous one last year which Ms Arroyo's dominant allies in Congress killed.

3 BISHOPS AND A PASTORAL LETTER. Contrary to the CBCP's "vague" position on the impeachment of Ms Arroyo, proimpeachment Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez (center) flanked by like-minded Bishops Julio Labayen and Antonio Tobias meet with other supportive groups from different religious congregations at St. Peter's Church on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City on Tuesday. *(Story on Page A1)* JOAN BONDOC

'Unproductive exercise'

"The opposition didn't even reach first base then. The case died at the committee level," the source recalled.

Monday's statement said: "Unless the process and its rules as well as the mindsets of all participating parties, pro and con, are guided by no other motive than genuine concern for the common good, impeachment will once again serve as an unproductive political exercise, dismaying every citizen, and deepening the citizen's negative perception of politicians, Left, Right and Center."

In all, the source said the CBCP deliberated on the impeachment—and essentially the entire eight-page document—for only two hours, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. last Sunday.

Save for the item on impeachment, the draft presented to the body on Saturday encountered very minimal changes, he said.

The deliberation was relatively quick, especially compared with the July 2005 pastoral statement which went through at least three drafts.

The source said the speed was understandable since the rest of the social issues tackled were merely a reiteration of previous CBCP positions contained in the three previous pastoral statements.

1st pages theological

Curiously, the first five pages of the new statement were deeply theological, assiduously explaining where the bishops were coming from in coming out with their position on social issues.

In a way, it seemed they were taking pains to explain why they were talking.

The document was drafted by a committee composed of Bishop Francisco Claver, prelate emeritus of Bontoc-Lagawe, Archbishops Orlando Quevedo and Leonardo Legazpi, Bishops Chito Tagle and Pablo David.

Save for Claver and David, the rest were also involved in drafting the July 2005 pastoral statement.

Malacañang distributed cash to bishops; some bishops 'revolted'

From page A1

been offered livelihood projects for his impoverished diocese.

Bishops used to donations

Asked to comment, CBCP spokesperson Msgr. Pedro Quitorio said: "We can neither confirm nor deny the cash offers. But in case they actually happened, the timing and propriety are questionable. Bishops are used to donations for their social programs. But some might be naive about the political underpinnings."

The CBCP plenary assembly, which took place on Saturday and Sunday, had been much anticipated because the bishops were expected to deliberate and subsequently issue a pastoral statement on current political issues, including the fresh impeachment drive against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The statement issued on Monday said the CBCP would not endorse the present impeachment process but would continue to respect the position of individuals and groups involved in it, and would not abandon the search for the truth behind the allegations against Ms Arroyo.

'Only what I earn'

The bishop, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the subject, said he made it clear to the Malacañang messenger that he was "used to accepting only envelopes that I earn."

He said he later learned from fellow bishops that they had accepted the envelopes each containing between P20,000 and P30,000 in cash on the assumption that these were bearing mere letters or project proposals from the Palace.

"The envelopes were slipped into their pockets," he said. "When they returned to their rooms and opened the envelopes, they were surprised [to find money]. They said they would return the envelopes right away."

Another member of the CBCP told the INQUIRER on Monday about the envelopes that had purportedly been delivered to the bishops.

One bishop posted at a diocese in Luzon yesterday said that some of his peers also received envelopes following a meeting arranged by a Palace official.

He said the envelopes contained plane tickets and a reimbursement of their expenses for traveling to Manila.

Monday to Sunday

Bishops began noticing the representatives reportedly of the Palace at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center on UN Avenue, Manila, as early as Monday last week, the eve of the CBCP retreat that preceded the plenary assembly, according to the account of the bishop who had immediately rejected the envelope offered to him.

From Monday until Sunday, the bishops saw the same "casual-looking" people lingering at the center and approaching prelates with envelopes at break time, particularly around noon and a little past 6 p.m.

The supposed messengers of the Palace said they had come to offer "livelihood" money for the bishops' respective parishioners.

But the offers were an affront to the bishops' intelligence and sensibility, the source said.

"Do they honestly believe that we would buy that?" he said, adding that he and his colleagues were merely being "polite and civil" to Malacañang's supposed emissaries.

Too small for projects

The bishop who rejected the envelope outright said that if the Arroyo administration were sincere in giving donations and providing livelihood projects, it should deal directly with the concerned parishioners or groups.

Besides, he said, the amount of P20,000 to P30,000 was too small to start livelihood projects for thousands of indigent parishioners.

"It seemed to me that [the money] was more for the bishops," he said.

The bishop also pointed out that it was the administration's "job to provide livelihood to the people."

"But how come it's being generous only at a time when bishops are meeting about issues concerning the administration?" he said.

It seemed to him, he said, that Malacañang was trying to "bribe" members of the CBCP into "softening our position."

"Perhaps [Malacañang officials] think that once you receive gifts from a benefactor, you'd be very soft already in your assessment," he said. "But we were never influenced in our pastoral statement."

'That's ridiculous'

Michael Defensor, the President's chief of staff, merely laughed off the report that Malacañang had sent emissaries to personally hand cash to the bishops.

"That's ridiculous. I don't think that even deserves a comment," he said.

In a radio interview, Defensor said Malacañang had decided to give its donations directly to the bishops or to each diocese's Social Action Council, as suggested by governors, mayors and nongovernment organizations.

"They made the suggestion to prevent jealousies and in-fighting among local government officials and NGOs on the delivery of the government's donations," Defensor said.

In the same radio program, Archbishop Oscar Cruz said he preferred that the government course its donations—which he termed as "the money of the people"—through civic organizations to ensure that "the bishops' hands are clean."

Medicines, rice, etc.

On Saturday, Parañaque Bishop Jesse Mercado called his peers' attention to the supposed gifts being dangled to them by the Arroyo administration.

He said the offers usually came in the form of cheap medicines and stocks of rice, noodles and similar commodities.

The CBCP source said he himself had received such a standing offer but continued to ignore it. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Bishops pushing people to stage people power—Salonga

From page A1

legal means for Ms Arroyo to answer serious allegations of electoral fraud, corruption and human rights violations against her.

"The President, through the impeachment, can defend herself from the charges hurled against her. It may not be a fool-proof process because it's an imperfect human institution," Salonga said.

Threat of lawsuits

"But for all its imperfections, it's the only legal method under the law where the President can ventilate her side. If you close this avenue because of the official stand of the influential CBCP, there may be no other way open to the people than resort to people power," he said.

Salonga said Ms Arroyo was not inclined to resign to face the allegations against her squarely in a court of law.

"I can understand why President Arroyo refuses to resign. She will lose her presidential immunity and will be swamped with criminal suits," he said.

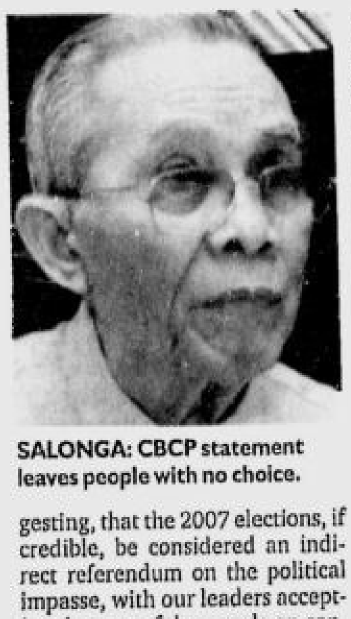
Referendum on GMA

"People Power is a last resort for many who are confronted by an exceedingly difficult situation," he added.

Monsod said One Voice respected the impeachment process but that repeated impeachment battles might be too much for Filipinos.

"The country cannot afford to have impeachment proceedings every 12 months without attention being diverted from addressing urgent social concerns and electoral reforms," Monsod said.

"That is why One Voice is suggesting, that the 2007 elections, if credible, be considered an indirect referendum on the political impasse, with our leaders accepting the vote of the people on congressmen and senators as their verdict, and its consequences, so we can move on," he added.



SALONGA: CBCP statement leaves people with no choice.

MONSOD: 2007 elections would be a referendum on GMA.

One Voice believes a poll victory by Ms Arroyo's allies in Congress and in the local government would mean she enjoys the confidence of the electorate.

A defeat of her minions would mean lack of confidence in her administration.

A House of Representatives controlled by the opposition after the 2007 polls is expected to transmit the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo to the Senate for a trial.

Other avenues

An impeachment complainant, Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez of Caloocan and fellow Bishop Antonio Tobias of Novaliches suggested there might be other avenues for the people.

"If this constitutional means should fail, the desire to know the truth continues. [The people] will look for other avenues. We have to be ready for risks," Iñiguez said in a forum at the St. Peter's Church in Quezon City.

"We should exhaust all efforts within legal means or we'll be forced by our conscience to look for other means," Iñiguez said.

Tobias said the CBCP statement was far from being an indictment of the impeachment process per se.

"[Administration officials might think that our statement i favoring them. They might find themselves wrong," Tobias said.

He said the CBCP statement did not mean the bishops were abandoning the people in the search for the truth.

"We will not leave them in the struggle," Tobias said.

Asked if he, Iñiguez and Bishop Emeritus Julio Xavier Labayen would push for extra-constitutional means to arrive at the truth if the impeachment process failed, Tobias said: "It would be the people who should move."

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

……

The Court of Appeals (CA) has just rejected the CB-BOL's plea to reconsider its earlier decision that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is bound by judgment as the sole successor-in-interest of the old Central Bank (CB) pursuant to RA 7653 and the transferee *pendente lite* because the CB had transferred its assets to BSP during the pendency of the civil cases. The CA had also earlier chided the CB-BOL for its deliberate delay in the restitution of Banco Filipino.

……

Republic of the Philippines
COURT OF APPEALS
Manila

FORMER SEVENTEETH DIVISION

CENTRAL BANK BOARD OF LIQUIDATORS,
Petitioner,

-versus-

THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MAKATI CITY (BRANCH 136) and BANCO FILIPINO SAVINGS AND MORTGAGE BANK,
Rsepondents,

CA-G.R. SP NO. 86697

Members:
GUEVARA-SALONGA,
Chairman
LAMPAS PERALTA, *and*
VILLON, JJ.

Promulgated:
JUNE 27, 2006

x -- x
11:00 Am

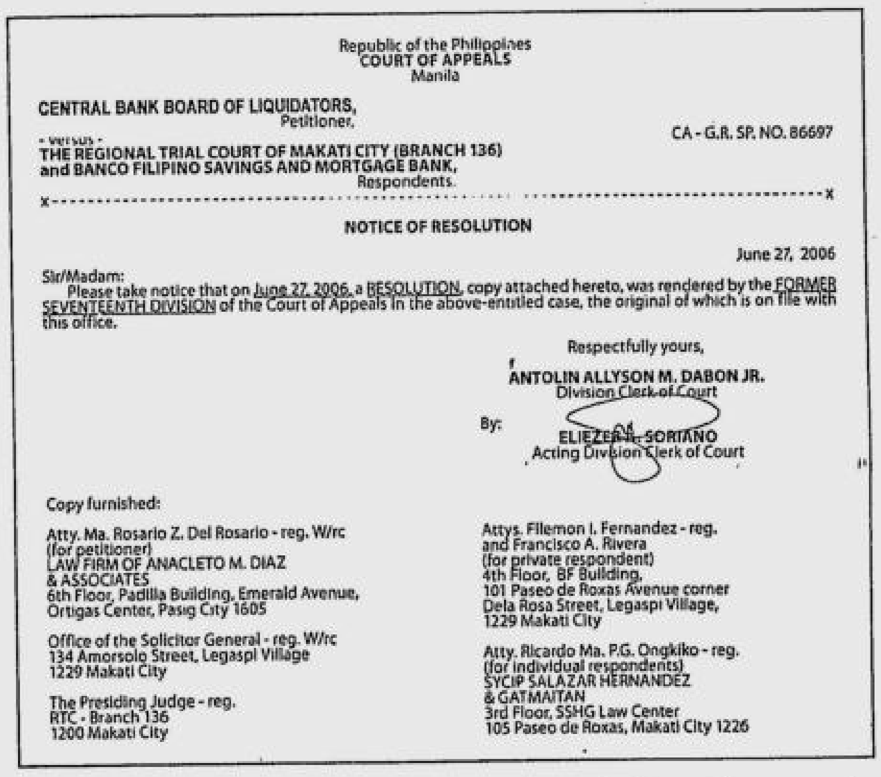
RESOLUTION

GUEVARA-SALONGA, J:

For resolution by this Court are petitioner's Motion for Reconsideration[1] of our decision dated 27 January 2006, the respective Comments of private respondent[2] and individual respondents Heirs of Jose B. Fernandez, Carlota P. Valenzuela, Arnulfo B. Aurellano, and Ramon V. Tiaoqui[3], and petitioner's Reply.[4]

We reviewed Our decision once again in light of the parties' arguments in the above motion, comments and reply. We find no plausible reason to depart from Our earlier disquisitions as the issues put forth have been exhaustively passed upon in Our decision.

With respect to **petitioner's Motion to Set Case for Oral Argument,**[5] a similar motion it filed dated 16 December 2005 **raising the same issues and arguments**[6] **has already been denied by this Court in its Resolution dated 18 January 2006.**[7]



Republic of the Philippines
COURT OF APPEALS
Manila

CENTRAL BANK BOARD OF LIQUIDATORS,
Petitioner,
- versus -
THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MAKATI CITY (BRANCH 136) and BANCO FILIPINO SAVINGS AND MORTGAGE BANK,
Respondents.

CA - G.R. SP. NO. 86697

x -- x

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

June 27, 2006

Sir/Madam:

Please take notice that on June 27, 2006, a RESOLUTION, copy attached hereto, was rendered by the FORMER SEVENTEENTH DIVISION of the Court of Appeals in the above-entitled case, the original of which is on file with this office.

Respectfully yours,

ANTOLIN ALLYSON M. DABON JR.
Division Clerk of Court

By:
ELIEZER R. SORIANO
Acting Division Clerk of Court

Copy furnished:

Atty. Ma. Rosario Z. Del Rosario - reg. W/rc
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The inclusion in the present motion of allegations as to private respondent's paid print advertisements in three newspapers **could not have changed the issues raised again by petitioner. The said motion is therefore likewise denied.**

Wherefore, the foregoing considered, the motion for reconsideration and motion to set case for oral argument are hereby Denied.

So Ordered.

Original Signed
JOSEFINA GUEVARA-SALONGA
Associate Justice

WE CONCUR:

Original Signed
FERNANDA LAMPAS PERALTA
Associate Justice

Original Signed
SESINANDO E. VILLON
Associate Justice

Original Signed
ANTOLIN ALLYSON M. DABON, JR.
Court of Appeals

[1] ROLLO, pp. 793-842
[2] ROLLO, pp. 849-870
[3] ROLLO, pp. 888
[4] ROLLO, pp. 904-922
[5] ROLLO, pp. 926-930
[6] ROLLO, pp. 762-767
[7] ROLLO, pp. 772

……

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- Landline and myDSL Tipid Bundle: Save up to P600/month

REACH MORE! SA SUPER DAMING PLDT AT SMART SUBSCRIBERS NA MATATAWAGAN!

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    - + P200/month for residential
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    - SMART call rate of P6.50/min
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KAYA LIPAT NA SA PLDT! NOW NA!

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1516, Series of 2006. See flyers for details.

A plus METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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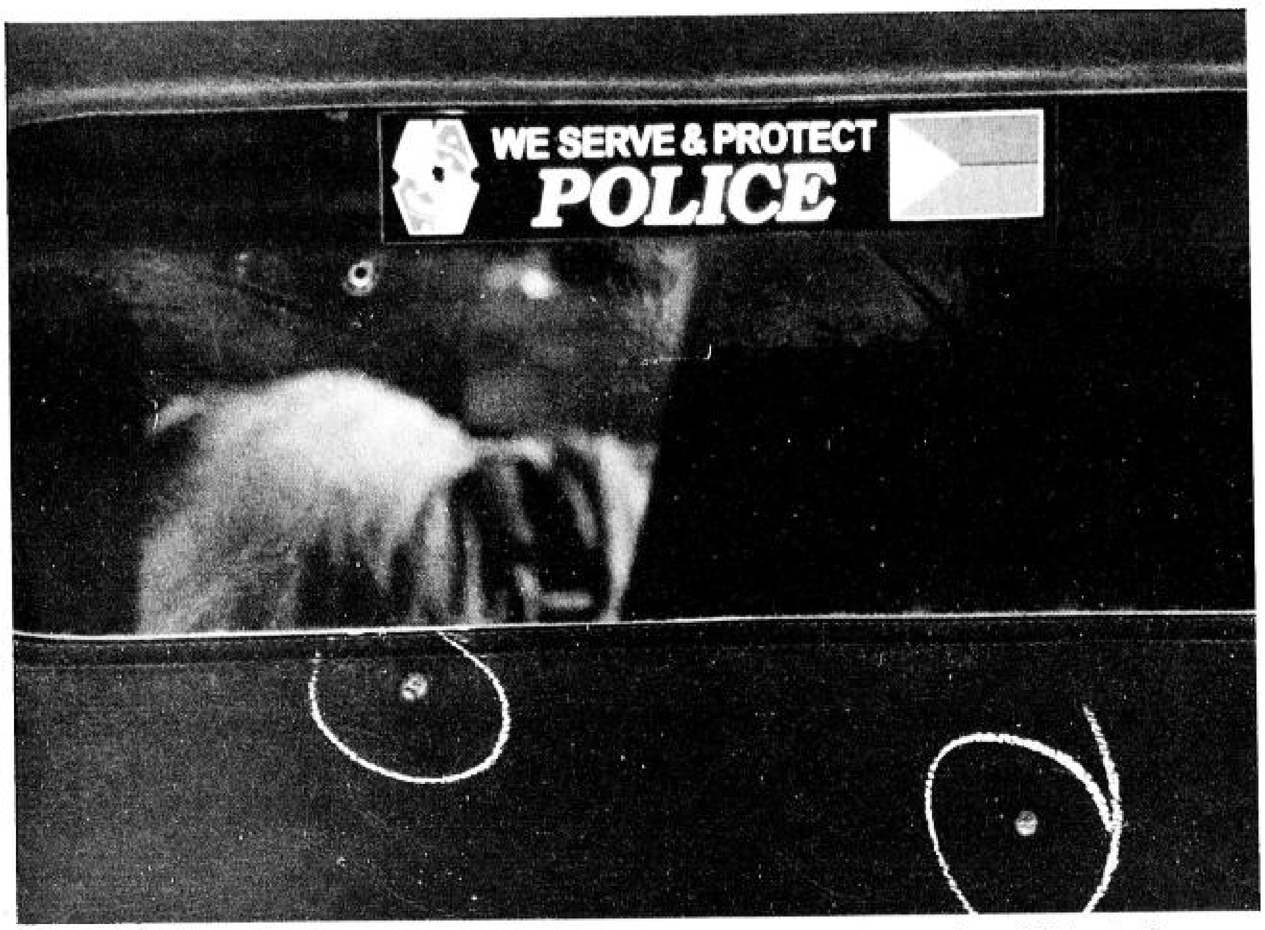

WE SERVE & PROTECT
POLICE

THE JEEPNEY where police found the body of Virgilio Gabriel, a former San Mateo policeman who was killed yesterday morning. His attackers shot him 14 times, apparently to make sure he would not survive. RAFFY LERMA

Ex-policeman dead in San Mateo ambush

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING THE killing of a 48-year-old former policeman who was shot to death by six men armed with 9 mm and .45-caliber handguns in San Mateo, Rizal yesterday morning.

PO3 Virgilio Gabriel was shot 14 times, mainly in the head and chest. He died immediately, San Mateo Police chief Chief Insp. Anastacio Benzon told the INQUIRER.

Benzon said Gabriel, a former desk officer at the municipal police station, had gone AWOL (absent without official leave) nearly 11 years ago.

Huge debts

"His wife said (Gabriel) had incurred huge debts after he stopped reporting for work years ago," Benzon added.

"We are already preparing a list of the people he failed to pay as well as those to whom he had issued bouncing checks," the police official said.

Benzon said Gabriel had been borrowing money from many people even during his stay at the San Mateo police station. However, Benzon said they would also look at other possible motives.

According to Benzon, the former policeman was shot while he was driving his jeepney at around 8 a.m. on Delos Santos Street in Barangay Ampid.

The victim's wife said that it was his habit to go jogging at Greenland Subdivision in the morning.

Stopover

Yesterday, Gabriel decided to drop by the house of a friend inside the subdivision.

On his way home, six men, who had apparently been waiting for him on the road, opened fire at his jeep.

The attack was so sudden that Gabriel was not able to reach for a .38-caliber handgun stored inside his toolbox.

Though he was seriously injured, Gabriel tried to steer the vehicle away from his killers but they ran after him and shot him repeatedly.

The owner-type jeep crashed into the door of a commercial building.

The six armed men later got on a tricycle and fled, Benzon said.

Gas station owner loses ₱3M to robbers

With no security escort, victim was easy target

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A GAS STATION OWNER LOST P3 million in cash and his van to robbers who held him up in Antipolo City yesterday morning.

Dennis Paras, 44, the owner of the Caltex gas station on Marcos Highway, Barangay Mayamot, told the police that he went to the establishment at around 6:20 a.m. to collect earnings from gas sales.

Paras said he had just parked his Starex van at the gas station and was getting out of the vehicle when three men armed with .45 caliber handguns approached him and declared a hold-up.

They dragged him out of the van, got into the vehicle and then fled. Inside the van was about P3 million in cash which Paras had just collected from nine other gas stations that he owned.

Though he was carrying a big sum of money, Paras was alone. He had no security escort, not even a company driver, to assist him, Supt. Primitivo Tabujara, Antipolo City police chief, said.

The robbers apparently knew that Paras was carrying a big sum of money and that he would show up at the gas station at that time, the police added.

Tabujara said he had been advising business and bank owners in Antipolo City never to transport huge amounts of cash without security escorts.

Meanwhile, a security officer was killed when he accosted two armed men who were about to enter the Bank of San Mateo in Barangay San Roque. Antonio Felipe was shot dead by the suspects who escaped, said Tabujara.

CHEERS 'n BEERS CAFE

THE CHEERS and Beers Bar in San Juan where six people were killed on Sunday night. RYAN LIM

Cops follow shooting spree suspect's trail

THE SAN JUAN POLICE YESTERday vowed to go after the suspect who single-handedly shot dead six drivers on Sunday night.

Lawmen already have a picture of Henry Fong, 27, which they got from a police file in Marikina City, where Fong had been jailed for alleged robbery, San Juan police chief Supt. Rodelio Jocson told the INQUIRER.

"We already have enough documentation on the suspect. We have follow-up teams ready to arrest him," Jocson said.

Fong allegedly barged inside the Cheers and Beers KTV Bar on Araneta Extension on Sunday night where a group of drivers was holding a meeting.

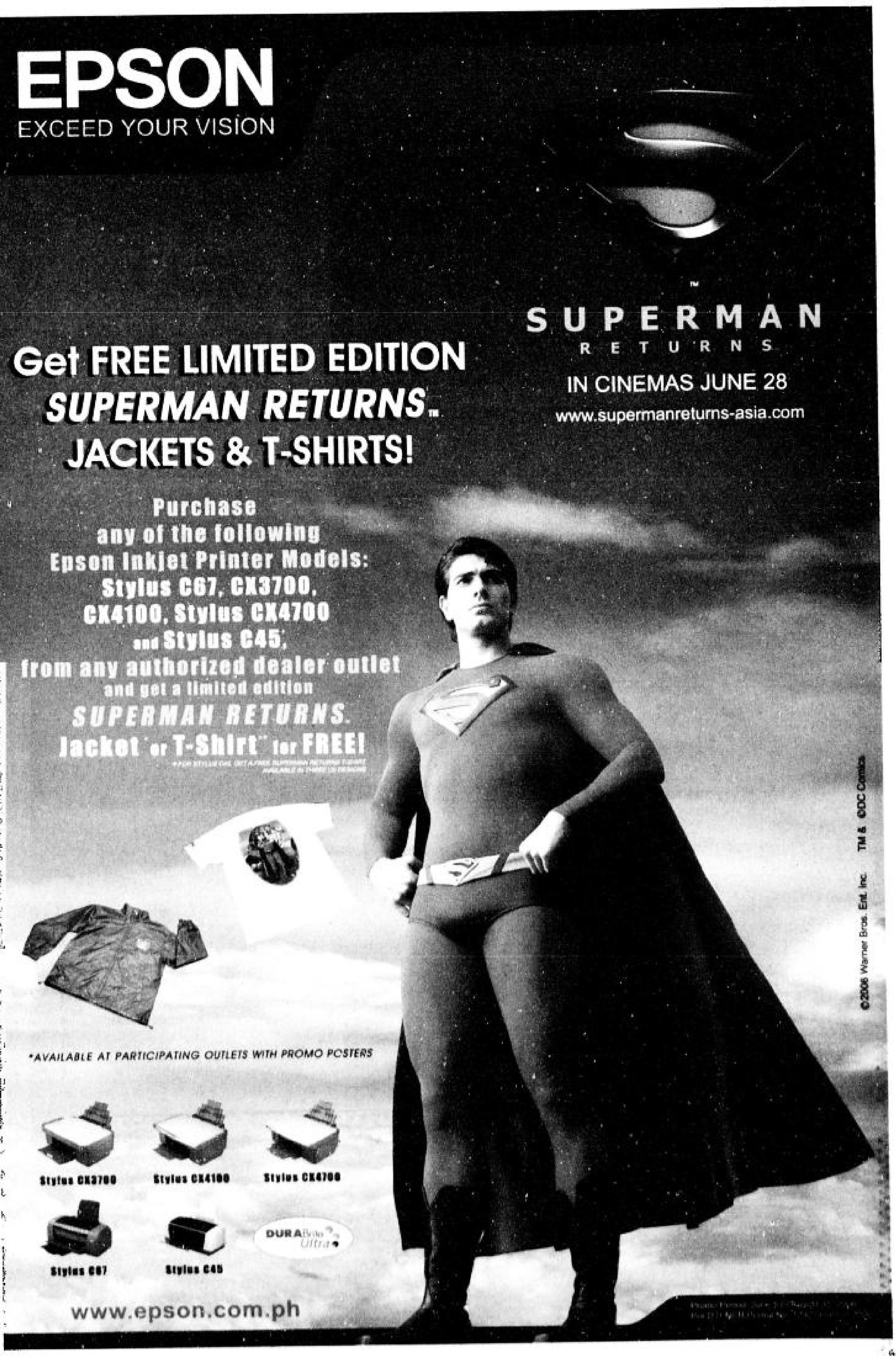
According to witnesses, Fong looked for the group's president Mario Pastorpili. The two had an argument in the past after Pastorpili reportedly accosted Fong for kicking him in front of the bar. The two, however, made up after Fong apologized.

On Sunday night, the two men got into another heated discussion and Fong ended up shooting Pastorpili twice, witnesses said.

Fong continued firing indiscriminately, shooting "everyone who moved inside the bar," PO1 Alexander Dedumo told the INQUIRER.

In the end, six drivers, including Pastorpili, were killed and two were injured. The suspect escaped on board a white Mazda pickup after the shooting spree.

Jocson said the two injured drivers were already "out of danger" as of yesterday and would soon give their statements to investigators. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*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PNU prexy willing to reconcile with 'foes'

By Margaux C. Ortiz

AMID THE CONTROVERSY SURrounding his appointment, the new president of the state-run Philippine Normal University (PNU) yesterday vowed to improve the institution's situation, given its decreasing budget and other financial problems.

Newly appointed PNU president Lutgardo Barbo said he would ensure the further development of students and professional improvement of the staff through his programs, in a press conference yesterday.

On the continuing protests over his appointment, Barbo said he was willing to reconcile with the school officials who had resigned from their administrative posts when the Board of Regents reaffirmed their decision on his appointment last week.

"We will be second to none in terms of teacher training," Barbo said "But to do that, we have to accomplish a lot in terms of physical improvements and educational innovations," he stressed.

Dr. Diony Varela, a member of the Board of Regents which selected Barbo from among several candidates for the post said they picked him for his capacity to raise funds for the university because of his connections at the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Friends in Congress

Barbo, whom Varela said was also chosen for his managerial and administrative experience in the management of scarce resources and resource generation as Eastern Samar governor for three terms, said he has already talked to some congressmen about improving the university.

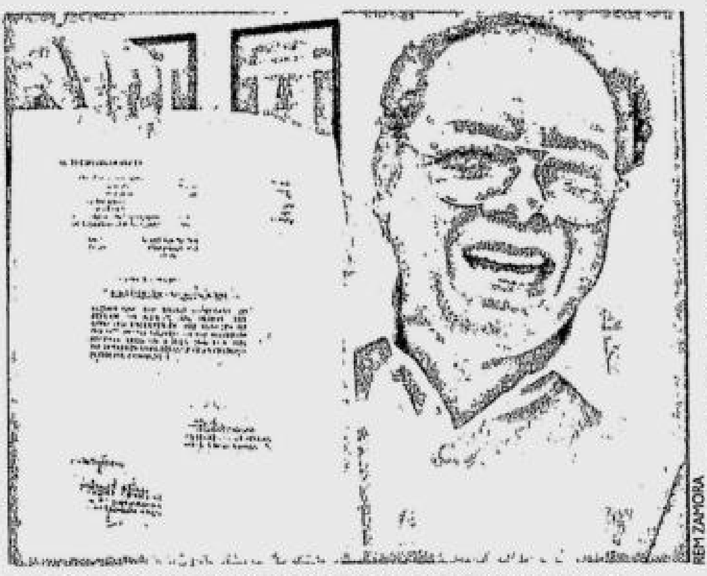
"They (congressman) are clearly partial to education because many of them have mothers who graduated from PNU," the new PNU president said.

University officials, under Barbo's watch, will also move for the refiling of a pending bill declaring PNU as a national university for teacher education.

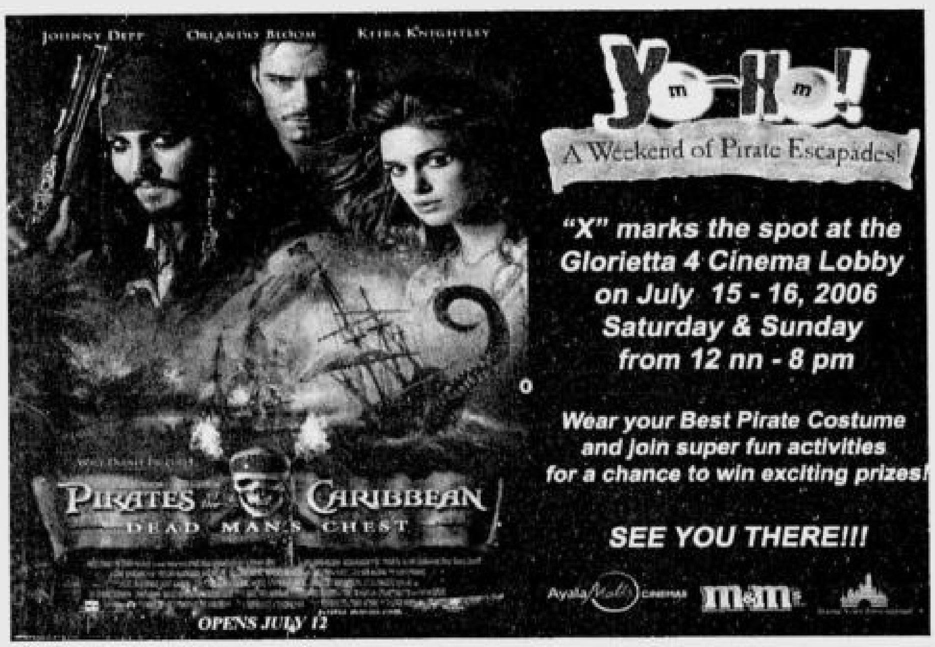
No disruption

Barbo said that the protests have not hampered school operations in any way.

"I have extended a hand of reconciliation and even talked to many of the protesters. I did not become president to preside over quarrels and misunderstandings," he added.



BARBO shows reporters a copy of the Board of Regents' decision reaffirming his selection as Philippine Normal University president.


JOHNNY DEPP
ORLANDO BLOOM
KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
Yo-Ho!
A Weekend of Pirate Escapades!
"X" marks the spot at the Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby on July 15 - 16, 2006 Saturday & Sunday from 12 nn - 8 pm
Wear your Best Pirate Costume and join super fun activities for a chance to win exciting prizes!
SEE YOU THERE!!!
PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST
OPENS JULY 12
Ayala Malls Cinemas
m&m's

More incentives in store for Makati businessmen

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IN A BID TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSItion as the country's financial capital, the Makati City Council is planning to draft an ordinance that would give incentives to businessmen.

"Our goal is to make Makati even more competitive with the other cities by both retaining and widening our investor base," Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said in a statement yesterday.

According to City Hall, councilors have already begun discussions on the proposed Investment and Incentives Code.

The proposed ordinance gives business firms tax breaks and exempts these from paying local fees like amusement tax. "The code will exempt firms from paying business and real property taxes for a period of three to four years. The city government is eyeing a 100 percent exemption for the first year of operation," said City Hall in a statement.

Listed as priority businesses are those engaged in information and communication technology, including digital animation and software firms, call centers, retirement centers, health facilities, graduate schools, heritage and cultural projects, commercial centers, hotels and other tourism-related or leisure establishments.

METROBRIEFS

Airport cop killed

AN AIRPORT policeman was shot dead by two unidentified men in Pasay City on Monday afternoon, police said. Corporal George Tumamao of the Manila International Airport police was riding his motorcycle along Roxas Boulevard, on his way to his money changer shop at Unit 16 Colcen Arcade, Airport Road, when two men shot him in the nape, said case investigator P02 Ricardo Tan. Policemen patrolling the area immediately responded when they heard the gunshot, scaring off the armed men who were on board a motorcycle without a license plate. Police said the two were probably after the P146,000 in cash that Tumamao was carrying with him. Tan said that Tumamao was on his way to his shop to deposit the money when he was shot. The victim was rushed to the San Juan de Dios Hospital where he died two hours later.

Jocelyn R. Uy

French woman robbed

WHAT was supposed to be a fun-filled vacation turned into a nightmare for a French tourist who lost her belongings to a gang of robbers on Monday night. Valerie Hene, 25, told the Makati City police that she lost P4,500 in cash and the memory card of her digital camera to the "Ativan Gang." The gang uses Ativan, a drug, to make their victims unconscious before robbing them. Hene, who is staying at the Plaza Condominium in Salcedo Village, told the police that she was strolling around Intramuros, Manila on Monday afternoon when four women and a man befriended her and offered her to take her around Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard. They later invited her to a house where she was offered food and beer. Hene said she felt dizzy and fell asleep after drinking the beer. When she woke up, she found herself in a taxi.

Jocelyn R. Uy

PREPARE TO BE BLOWN OUT OF THE WATER
WALT DISNEY PICTURES
PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST
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Ayala Malls CINEMAS
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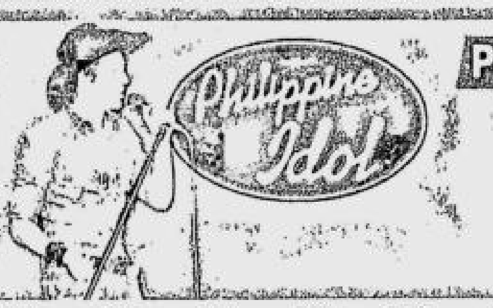
DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW THAT the University of Manila was a brainchild of five persons aged 15 to 21?

In 1913, siblings Apolinario, Mariano and Maria de los Santos, with friends Buenaventura Bello and Manuel Montilla, thought of building a school. They opened the Instituto de Manila a year later in a rented building in Binondo. The school, which was relocated to Sampaloc in 1919, later became known as the University of Manila.

PDI Research

INQUIRER TV GUIDE
Wednesday, July 12, 2006



Panoorin: World-class na galing ng Pinoy sa pag-awit.

The phenomenon begins July 29, Saturday, 8 PM.
PHILIPPINE IDOL NA!
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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				National Geographic	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Fear Factor			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr Bean	Naruto	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	A Love To Kill	Bandila	S.O.C.O.		
AXN		CSI: NY (Season 2)		Worlds Apart		Ripley's Believe It or Not		The Amazing Race 8				30 Seconds To Fame	Samsung Sports World	Maximum Exposure (Season 1)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: Miami (Season 3)	
Cartoon Network	Pixie And Dixie	All New Popeye Show	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dex	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons	Teen Titans	Justice League	The Batman	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock
Cinema One		Banta Ng Kahapon				Dahas				Diliryo			Persona	[illegible] (9:15 PM)				Hubog	
Cinemax			Mamie (3:35 PM)				The Outlaw Josey Wales (5:45 PM)					Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot			Rules Of Obsession (9:2? PM)			The Opposite Sex And How To Live With Them	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Cold Case		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	I, Detective	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		A Perfect Murder				Bones	Surface
Discovery Channel	Building The Ultimate	Perfect Disaster		American Chopper		Top Tens		Building The Biggest		Wild Discovery		China 21		Blueprint For Disaster		A Haunting		Psychic Witness	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/[illegible] Bunny	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon	Buzz on Maggie	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Winter X Games Aspen Co USA			MLB All Star Game 2006					Germany Tonight	Motorsport Asia	Sportscenter Asia	MLB All Star Game 2006				
ETC		America's Next Top Model 4		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Veronica Mars 2		Beach Girls		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Cold Turkey		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	St. Thomas More Faithful Statesman	Chaplet Of Mercy/Angelus	Faith In Motion	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Suffering And The Love Of God	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church & The Poor: Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/Angelus	One In Their Heart: Holiness Of Priesthood	Parable	Rome Reports	Special Programming	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man [illegible] (2:45 PM)	Now and Forever [illegible] (3:15 PM)	Endless Love 1: Autumn In My Heart By Popular Demand		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Captain Barbell	Majika	I Luv NY		Love Of The Condor Heroes		Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Strong Medicine (3:15 PM)		Gentle Ben: Black Gold				McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Dinotopia		Judging Amy		Ann Rule's Stranger Beside Me			Judging Amy (11:45 PM)
HBO	Anacondas: The Hunt For The Blood Orchid			The Dark Crystal (4:15 PM)				Crimson Force			Jury Duty			The Devil's Advocate				Locusts: The 8th Plague (11:15 PM)	
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Angelic Layer	Tokyo Underground	Metal Fighter Miku	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Angelic Layer
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	TV Infomercial		Japan Video Topics, Anime		Global Family Songs		Travel Philippines	BYK 101	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Heat		Velocity		X-Men	Street Smarts	Mad TV		That 70s Show	My Name Is Earl	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Primetime Glick	Chappelle Show
Lifestyle Network		30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY: Crafts	Iron Chef America		My Country, My Kitchen	E! Entertainment Special		Living Space	Martha		Fine Living Special		Intimate Portrait	
MTV Philippines		Homewrecker	Room Raiders	MTV Screen	MTV Hits					Get Spotted	MTV Screen	TRL		Homewrecker	Room Raiders	Get Hitch'd	Homecoming	MTV Live The Dawn	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXLOG	MYX Fresh	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Band Of The Run	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	Nat'l Geographic Specials		Journey Into Amazonia		Totally Wild	Wild Orphans	Top 5 - Is It Real?		WOW! Wild Sex: The Hard Sell		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials				Inside 9/11: Countdown to Terror	
NBN		Tinadyanyo Alas-Tres		Telebyuryo Sports Alap			[illegible]	[illegible] News Boat (Live)		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Telebyuryo Final Edition				Buhay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles	Convergence	Auto Motor Sport	The Planet	Tomorrow Today	Ang Pagbubuyog				Opening (Live)	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	INC Chronicles E	INC Chronicles F	Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	DWTV Journal News	The Planet
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob [illegible]	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius [illegible]	Nick Kicks! All Grown Up		The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Sarah, The Sweet Princess								Huwag Mo Nang Itanong				[illegible]				Akala Mo
Qtv	[illegible]		Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene	Fireworks	Damo	Project 11	Now Na!		News On Q	Balikbayan		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Arangkada News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Three Wishes		Extreme Makeover		Newswatch Now	Cargo For Truth		Kerygma
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		[illegible]		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports					Boxing: [illegible] Classics			[illegible] Volleyball		Sagupaan	NBA Jam	2006 JONES CUP				Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	2006 Thomas Cup [illegible] World Games	
Sports Plus		This Is The PGA Tour		Raceworld		[illegible]				NASCAR USG Sheetrock 400 Chicago									
Star Movies			The Quick And The Dead				Nothing To Lose (6:20 PM)			Around The World In 80 Days				King Arthur				[illegible]	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Beauty & The Geek/Rockstar		Boston Legal		The Apprentice		Senkusai	Beauty & The Geek/Rockstar
Studio 23	Bewitched	Yu-Gi-Oh 3 & 4				Batman Beyond	Xiaolin Showdown	Spirits	Blog	Whazzup Whazzup	CSI Season 5		24 Season 4 (8:20 PM)	It's A Guy Thing (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

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UN Security Council defers vote on N. Korea

Awaits results of China's diplomatic efforts to defuse crisis over Nokor's missile tests

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN SEcurity Council on Monday put off a vote on a Japanese draft resolution that would slap sanctions on North Korea over its missile tests, to allow more time for Chinese diplomatic efforts to defuse the crisis.

"For time being we have decided not to press for a vote and to wait for a short while" while a high-level Chinese delegation is on a six-day visit to Pyongyang, Japanese Ambassador Kenzo Oshima told reporters.

In Washington, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also said the United States had agreed with a Japanese proposal to postpone the vote pending the results of the Chinese initiative to the communist state.

A top Chinese delegation led by Vice Premier Hui Liangyu arrived in North Korea on Monday amid hopes the visit would ease rising tensions over last week's tests of seven missiles.

Rice said that the Chinese mission showed "some promise" and that Washington wanted to give it time to play out.

China meanwhile circulated a nonbinding presidential statement in the Security Council as an alternative to the draft resolution presented by Japan with the backing of all Western members of the 15-member council.

Chinese Ambassador Wang Guangya said he transmitted his text to all his council colleagues, saying it provided the "best framework and the best format" for a "unified" response from the Security Council to North Korea.

The Chinese presidential statement contains many of the key elements in the Japanese document, including a call on member states to block the transfer of items to North Korea that could be used in missile and weapons of mass destruction programs.

But Britain's UN envoy Emyr Jones Parry said the Chinese document "just really didn't do the job" because "it did not respond sufficiently robustly to actually what the present threat is. Indeed it did not recognize that there was a threat."

Wang said the key difference in his text was that he dropped the description of the North Korean missile tests as a "threat to international peace and security" as well as the draft's invocation of Chapter Seven of the UN charter.

Chapter Seven, invoked in cases of threats to international peace and security, can authorize sanctions or even military action.

"Those who work in the United Nations understand clearly that such determination and the invocation of Chapter Seven ... will cause serious concern for China," Wang said.

He said such a determination by the council would be "political" and could be used in future by some "to take action which would make the situation even worse," in a veiled reference to the Iranian nuclear crisis.

"The Security Council has to take responsible, constructive and prudent actions," Wang said.

"We believe it (the Chinese text) provides an excellent basis for a strong signal to Pyongyang," Russian envoy Vitaly Churkin told reporters. "We think what our Chinese colleagues have offered is the right mode of action."

Reacting to Wang's contention that the North Korean missile tests did not constitute a threat to international peace and security, Oshima wondered how Beijing would have reacted if those missiles had been directed at Chinese territory. *AFP*

Olmert defends Gaza raids; death toll hits 50

GAZA CITY—NINE PALESTINIANS WERE killed on Monday as Israel pounded Gaza with deadly air strikes and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert defended the massive military offensive in the face of international criticism.

Despite the mounting toll, Hamas' exiled political chief insisted the captured soldier at the heart of the worst Middle East crisis in months—and the deadliest in four years—would not be freed without a swap for Palestinian prisoners.

Israel has refused to negotiate with Hamas or free prisoners in exchange for the missing teenage corporal, pressing on regardless with its deadly offensive in which three football-playing adolescents were among the dead Monday.

"We haven't set a particular timetable for this operation. We will continue in places, in time, in measures that will suit our purposes," said Olmert, who is facing the biggest test of his premiership in the crisis.

"I think that once the Qassam (rocket) shooting will be stopped and the terrorist actions against innocent civilians will be halted altogether, there will be no need for any Israeli action in Gaza," he said.

At least 50 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier have been killed since Israel tanks and troops poured into the Gaza Strip on July 5 in a bid to stop Palestinian rocket attacks and secure Cpl. Gilad Shalit's release.

Four Palestinian teenagers, who local medical sources said were unarmed, died and another four people were wounded in the latest Israeli air strikes over the Gaza Strip after dark Monday.

Witnesses said the victims were playing football close to an area where militants had fired makeshift rockets toward Israel a short time earlier. One rocket was reported to have landed on Israeli territory without causing damage or casualties.

An Israeli army spokesperson said the air raid had targeted a rocket-launching cell in northern Gaza in the Beit Hanun area.

Two militants from Hamas' armed wing and two from rival Islamic Jihad were killed in earlier strikes, and at least another 12 bystanders were hurt. An eighth Palestinian died of his injuries elsewhere in Gaza.

Israel has warned that troops are likely to be in for the long haul, rejecting a call by Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniya for a mutual ceasefire but denying that the offensive aims to topple his Hamas government.

"This government is terror," Olmert said, but "we have no particular desire to topple the Hamas government as a policy."

Hamas, which has seen its government offices bombed in Israeli air strikes since Shalit's capture, for which the Hamas armed wing claimed joint responsibility, has warned the assault is complicating mediation efforts aimed at freeing the corporal.

But Olmert reiterated he would not negotiate with Hamas, which officially advocates the destruction of the Jewish state, or release prisoners in a swap for Shalit as his captors have demanded.

Moving into land evacuated in September after a 38-year occupation, ground forces have been backed by helicopter gunships and drones in wave after wave of air strikes for two straight weeks of overnight bombardment. *AFP*

HORSE FIGHTING
Horses fight during a horse fighting competition at a festival in Rongshui Miao Autonomous County in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, July 10. Miao minorities celebrated the traditional festival of Xin He on Monday. REUTERS

Kosovo war crimes trial opens at UN

THE HAGUE—THE MAMMOTH war crimes trial of six former top Serbian officials and close allies of late Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, accused of atrocities committed by Serb troops during the 1998-99 crackdown on Kosovo, started at the UN court Monday.

"In 1999 Kosovo was prominent in international headlines and video images of conflict and convoys of thousands of Kosovo Albanian refugees. We are going to explain why," said prosecutor Thomas Hannis.

In the dock alongside ex-Serbian President Milan Milutinovic are the former Serbian Prime Minister Nikola Sainovic, two former Yugoslav army chiefs of staff—Generals Dragoljub Ojdanic and Nebojsa Pavkovic—and Generals Vladimir Lazarevic and Sreten Lukic.

"We say the evidence will show that these six accused were co-perpetrators with Slobodan Milosevic in a joint criminal enterprise... the aim of which was to ensure continued Serbian control over the province," he added.

Following Milosevic's death in March, the Milutinovic case has become pivotal for establishing what happened in Serbia's mainly ethnic-Albanian province of Kosovo from a legal point of view.

Much of the evidence to be presented is expected to be similar to the prosecution's Kosovo case in the Milosevic trial.

The former Yugoslav president died suddenly on March 11 and his trial, the first to deal with the alleged Serb atrocities committed during the Kosovo war, was closed without the judges ruling on the evidence presented. *AFP*

Passenger jet crashes in Pakistan; all 45 on board killed

MULTAN—A PAKISTAN INTERnational Airlines (PIA) passenger plane crashed in fields on the outskirts of the central city of Multan on Monday, killing all 45 people on board, the local police chief said.

"Everyone is dead," police chief Iftikhar Babar told Reuters as he stood at the spot where the Fokker aircraft, laden with fuel, exploded in flames after hitting the wall of a mango orchard.

Flight PK 688, en route for Islamabad via Lahore, was carrying 41 passengers and four crew.

The Fokker F-27 turboprop, built in 1964, crashed around 1.5 km from the airport, just two minutes after takeoff, Farooq Shah, PIA deputy managing director, told a news conference in Karachi.

Rescue workers from the privately run relief foundation Edhi, the Civil Aviation Authority and troops helped recover the passengers' remains and sift wreckage for clues to the cause of the crash.

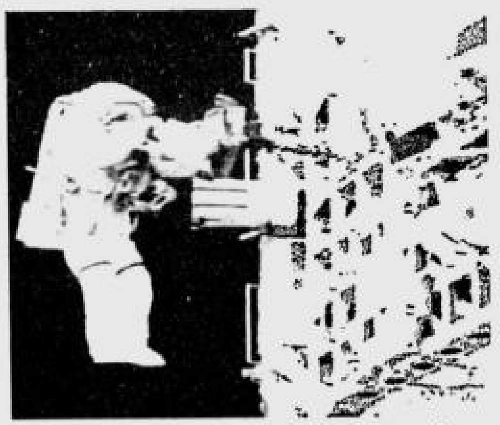
"There are few bodies which are identifiable," said Shahid Pervez, a civil defense official, as rescue workers loaded charred corpses into ambulances.

Police chief Babar quoted some witnesses as saying they saw flames coming from the aircraft shortly after it took off, and it appeared to be tilting to the right.

"I saw the plane diving downward. It hit electricity wires and then crashed after hitting a wall of an orchard," said Mohammad Akram, a farmer who was working in his fields. He said the plane burst into flames after impact.

The crash occurred near a state primary school, but there were no casualties other than those on board, officials said. *Reuters*

Astronauts complete repair on space station



SPACEWALKER Piers Sellers puts away tools on the tool pallet in the Shuttle Discovery's payload bay in this Nasa TV July 10 frame grab. REUTERS

HOUSTON—TWO SPACEWALKING ASTRONAUTS Monday replaced broken hardware deemed crucial for the completion of the International Space Station, a new success for Nasa in the 6-day-old Discovery shuttle mission.

In their second of three planned spacewalks, astronauts Mike Fossum and Piers Sellers, who arrived aboard Discovery last week with five colleagues, replaced a broken cable reel of the orbiting laboratory's construction equipment transporter.

Failure could have scuttled Nasa's Atlantis shuttle launch planned for Aug. 28, since the next mission will focus on resuming construction of the unfinished ISS, a US space agency official said.

"Phew, man, do I feel better," Rick LaBrode, the lead ISS flight director for the current mission, told reporters.

"If we didn't get this successfully changed and checked out, then we couldn't proceed with the next mission, which is right on our heels," LaBrode said.

Fossum and Sellers performed some space acrobatics during their excursion, as one astronaut hanged horizontally at one point while the other held the large old and new cable reels for a tricky handoff.

The pair also installed a spare pump module to an external stowage platform during their nearly seven-hour spacewalk.

"Good job guys, slightly ahead of time. It's a pleasure to watch," mission control capsule commentator Julie Payette said from Houston after they placed the pump. *AFP*

India's satellite launch ends in disaster

BANGALORE—A DEEP SPACE rocket carrying India's heaviest satellite disintegrated in a fiery plume of smoke and flames seconds after lift-off Monday, dealing a crippling blow to the country's ambitious space program.

The rocket called the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) blasted off at 1205 GMT from an island off the coast of the southeastern state of Andhra Pradesh, cartwheeled and disintegrated seconds later in clear view.

"A mishap happened in the first stage of the separation and it will be some time before we know what went wrong," Madhavan Nair, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) chairman, told reporters at the launch site.

Disaster struck ISRO less than a day after an unsuccessful test flight of India's Agni-III nuclear-capable missile which has a range of 4,000 km and designed to arm New Delhi with a ballistic weapon.

The 49-meter GSLV carried a 2,168-kg satellite to be put into stationary orbit at 36,000 km and programmed to boost television services for the next 10 years.

It was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Center at Sriharikota in the Bay of Bengal. A similar GSLV successfully placed a satellite in orbit in 2004.

Indian scientists citing preliminary data blamed snags in the separation process in both the two-stage Agni (Fire) and the three-stage GSLV as the cause for their failures.

Experts also described the unsuccessful launch as a temporary setback.

"I would describe it as a setback but not a show-stopper," said K. Santhanam, a former chief adviser of the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO), which is developing the Agni missiles.

"Such high-technology systems do take a little time to mature ... and such mishaps are not unknown in space history," Santhanam told CNN-IBN television.

Uday Bhaskar, deputy director of the state-funded Institute of Defense Studies and Analysis, said the GSLV's failure should not be viewed as the end of road for ISRO's space program.

"There has been a setback but the scale of the setback should be placed in context because countries before India who have embarked upon satellite launch business too have gone through a similar learning curve," he said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

60 dead in Mogadishu fighting

MOGADISHU—Fighting surged in Mogadishu on Monday between Islamist militias and fighters loyal to the city's last warlords, pushing the death toll over two days to at least 60 and pounding a key hospital with artillery and gunfire. Residents feared the death toll would climb even further in the most ferocious fighting in the capital since the Islamists seized it a month ago from an alliance of US-backed warlords. Witnesses said fighters exchanged rocket, artillery and machinegun fire. "The hospital is under very heavy mortar and artillery attack and stray bullets are hitting. Chaos is everywhere in the hospital and staff are running away," Abdikadir Sheikh, a medical official at Mogadishu's Madina Hospital, told Reuters by phone as artillery and gunfire crackled behind him. *Reuters*

Britain sends more troops to Afghanistan

LONDON—Britain said Monday it will send nearly 900 more troops to southern Afghanistan between now and October to grapple with Taliban insurgents, bringing its total deployment in the area to 4,400. In a statement to parliament, Defense Secretary Des Browne added that more support helicopters would be sent to the troubled region, together with a radar installation. The extra troops will be drawn from the Royal Marines, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, the Royal Irish Regiment and the Royal Engineers—with the latter to "accelerate the reconstruction effort." Senior military personnel, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a force of about 150 men from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers—currently on standby in Cyprus—would be sent in the next couple days. *AFP*

US soldiers killed in revenge for rape

BAGHDAD—An al-Qaida-linked group posted a Web video Tuesday purporting to show the mutilated bodies of two US soldiers kidnapped and killed last month, claiming it killed them in revenge for the rape-slaying of a young Iraqi woman by American troops from the same unit. The Mujahedeen Shura Council previously claimed responsibility for killing the two soldiers, who were snatched in a June 16 attack near the town of Youssifiyah, southwest of Baghdad, in which a third soldier was also killed. But the statement was the first time the group linked the slaying to the rape case. A statement by the group said the video was released as "revenge for our sister who was dishonored by a soldier of the same brigade." *AP*

Gay marriage fights intensify in US

BOSTON—Massachusetts' highest court ruled on Monday that voters could decide whether to ban gay marriage in the first and only state to legalize it, while a California court weighed the constitutionality of such a ban. The latest developments in the state-by-state battle over homosexual unions came four days after two major legal setbacks for backers of same-sex marriage in New York and Georgia and reflect entrenched divisions on the issue nationwide. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's unanimous ruling frees state lawmakers to vote on a constitutional amendment on Wednesday that would ban both gay marriage and civil unions. If 50 lawmakers in the state's 200-member Legislature approve the measure, it goes to a second legislative vote in 2007. *Reuters*

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Basayev, Russia's Bin Laden, slain

Chechen rebel leader had planned another attack to mar G8 summit

MOSCOW—CHECHEN REBEL LEADER SHAMIL Basayev, Russia's most wanted man, was killed on Monday, handing a huge boost to President Vladimir Putin as he prepared to host a Group of Eight summit.

FSB security agency chief Nikolai Patrushev said Basayev, who had claimed responsibility for the bloody Beslan school siege in 2004, had been about to mount an attack in southern Russia to mar the weekend G8 summit Putin will chair in St. Petersburg.

Putin, whose already huge popularity at home will be further boosted by the news as he prepares to meet US President George W. Bush and other world leaders, said Basayev's death was "deserved retribution" for a campaign of killing.

More than 331 people, half of them children, were killed in the Beslan school siege in September 2004. Russian forces stormed the school, which had been seized by Islamist militants linked to Chechnya's fight for independence.

"This is deserved retribution against the bandits for our children in Beslan ... for all these acts of terror they committed in Moscow and other Russian regions," Putin said in televised comments.

TWO soldiers walk past the wreckage of a truck damaged by an explosion that is believed to have killed Chechen rebel leader Shamil Basayev (left photo) in the village of Ekazhevo in the southern Russian region of Ingushetia July 10. REUTERS

Patrushev said Basayev, with other Chechen fighters, was killed in an operation by special forces in Ingushetia, a region neighboring Chechnya.

"They intended to use this terrorist act to put pressure on Russia's leadership at a time when the G8 summit was being held," said Patrushev.

Officials said Basayev was killed when his group's explosive-laden truck blew up. They said they found fragments of Basayev's prosthetic leg and his head, with its distinctive beard.

A rebel website confirmed Basayev was dead, calling him a "shakhid" or holy martyr. But it said there had been no special operation by Russian forces.

"The Chechen commander died when a truck loaded with explosives accidentally blew up," the www.kavkazcenter.com site quoted a rebel spokesperson as saying. *Reuters*

Elusive terrorist's cause in Chechnya may die too

MOSCOW—IN A LONG AND notorious career, Shamil Basayev, the elusive terrorist leader of the most vicious separatist faction in Chechnya, was an airplane hijacker, a hostage-taker, a guerrilla commander, and a war-scarred spokesperson for terror who tried to justify mass killings of civilians, even schoolchildren, for political ends and revenge.

His status as Russia's most wanted man also made him a potent symbol, the face of an insurgency in Chechnya and the nearby territories that seemed never to end.

And so when Russia announced his death on Monday, just weeks after announcing the killing of Abdul Khalim Saidullayev, the rebel Chechen president, it was the latest of almost two years of setbacks for the separatists, and raised questions about the direction of their war.

"It is kind of the end of an era for this whole movement," said Andrew McGregor, the director of Aberfoyle International Security Analysis, in Toronto, which analyzes strategic issues in the Islamic world.

Basayev, who blended Islamic terrorism, nationalism, and Chechen codes of revenge to eclipse all other separatists, had galvanized many of the remaining fighters and terrorists operating against Russia and the pro-Kremlin Chechen proxies, who now control much of that nation, a small republic in the Caucasus.

In interviews late last year outside Russia, several active fighters who were recuperating from injuries spoke of him as a battlefield folk hero, even those who said they disagreed with some of his ruthless tactics.

Darkly charismatic, with a shaved head, expansive beard, and ready wisecracks, Basayev was one of the last active fighters from the earliest days of the war, in 1994. *New York Times News Service*

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POLISH President Lech Kaczynski (left) shakes hands with his twin brother Jaroslaw Kaczynski, after naming him Poland's new premier. AP

Poland's president picks twin brother as new PM

WARSAW—POLISH PRESIDENT Lech Kaczynski appointed Jaroslaw Kaczynski, his identical twin brother and the chairman of the governing Law and Justice party, as prime minister during a ceremony at the presidential palace.

Wearing a black suit, the president shook hands with his brother—who looked almost indistinguishable except for his gray suit—and wished him luck in forming a new government.

"I wish the new prime minister designate, chairman Jaroslaw Kaczynski, luck in forming his new government," the president said Monday.

In brief remarks, Jaroslaw Kaczynski pledged to work to cleanse Poland of what he considers the corruption that flourished in the years since the fall of communism in 1989-1990, one of his favorite themes.

"The work of the Cabinet that I hope will be formed within the next few days will concentrate on everything aiming to fix the state," Kaczynski said. "This goal is in essence our one goal. Poland needs fixing, needs deep rebuilding."

The president also warmly thanked outgoing Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, who officially stepped down earlier Monday, for his hard work in "rebuilding the state."

Marcinkiewicz resigned amid reports of disagreements over economic policy between him and Jaroslaw Kaczynski, who was widely regarded as the power behind the scenes of the outgoing government. He is now to become the party's candidate for mayor of Warsaw.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski has said his future Cabinet would continue the pro-social welfare policies of Marcinkiewicz's government. Law and Justice sealed a coalition deal in May with two Euro-skeptic parties—the farm-based Self-Defense and the Roman Catholic League of Polish Families.

The new prime minister now has 14 days to form his Cabinet, and then another two weeks to win a confidence vote in parliament. *AP*

Mexico bet shows 'fraud' video

MEXICO CITY—LEFTIST CANDIdate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador alleged on Monday he has "irrefutable" videotape proof of fraud in last week's presidential balloting as his supporters promised nonstop street demonstrations until he gets a recount.

Lopez Obrador launched an official challenge to the July 2 election late Sunday, after losing to conservative Felipe Calderon by some 244,000 votes—little more than half a percent of the 41.7 million ballots cast.

Mexico's election tribunal took up the case on Monday after Lopez Obrador's organization delivered 900 pages documenting alleged vote fraud late Sunday.

The leftist's campaign chief, Jesus Ortega, warned of nationwide protests: "The struggle will begin Wednesday, and will be ongoing, with hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of people." They plan to jam Mexico City's Zocalo square and to march on the capital from 300 election districts.

A screening of the videotapes showed one person stuffing six allegedly pro-Calderon ballots into a ballot box in Guanajuato, the home state of President Vicente Fox and a base for Calderon's National Action Party (PAN). *AFP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Judoka Baylon nails gold in Thailand/A27

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SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Italian fans to Azzurri: Grazie for World Cup victory /A28

Bulls gun for equalizer vs Giants

RED BULL COACH YENG Guiao still cannot tell if his flatlined team has finally come back to life. Today's game will give him a clearer picture.

GAME TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
5:30 p.m.—Annual Awards
7:45 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull
(Finals: Game 4)

What he is sure of, though, is the faith he has in his squad.

"At this point, I believe we have the ability to come back," said the no-nonsense Bulls mentor.

Red Bull will try to validate that faith when it takes on Purefoods in Game 4, seeking to equalize the best-of-seven series for the Gran Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Bulls averted a 0-3 hole Sunday night, gunning to life their running game and hitting their shots from the perimeter to cut the Giants' series lead to 2-1 with a key 89-79 victory, also at the Big Dome.

"I'm not going to say we have fully recovered," Guiao said. "But if we even up [today], the series will become more interesting."

Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio knows that the effort his team put into building a 2-0 cushion will be laid to waste if the Giants allow the Bulls to equalize, thus the young mentor has began second-guessing his Red Bull counterpart.

"Game 4 will definitely be the key," Gregorio admitted. "We know we can never anticipate the next move of Red Bull, but I'm assuming that since its new formula worked, they might do it again."

Gregorio need not look far for answers.

After taking Games 1 and 2 of the series, which is supported by Welcoat Paints, on torrid shooting from the perimeter, the Giants suddenly lost their outside touch, shooting a dismal 37.7 percent in Game 3 that was made worse by the team's agony from the three-point range.

Without their usual hits from afar, the Giants had no recourse but to pass the burden of lighting up the scoreboards to James Yap and Kerby Raymundo.

"Noy didn't have a good start and it affected the flow of our offense," said Gregorio. "When he started to miss, we relied on James and Kerby instead."

And Yap also struggled. While Castillo went 0-of-6 from the three-point area, Yap shot even worse: he misfired all of his eight triples.

Right before Game 4, the season's best players will be honored in an event dubbed the Leo Prieto Annual Awards. Yap, Raymundo and Red Bull slotman Enrico Villanueva are battling it out for what is the closest MVP race in recent years.

Red Bull's Lordy Tugade and Marc Pingris of Purefoods are also in the running. June Navarro

San Mig-RP breaks ice in Jones Cup

THE SAN MIGUEL-PHILIPPINE NATIONAL team finally won one yesterday, surviving a young Australian side, 76-67, in the elimination round of the 2006 William Jones Cup basketball championship in Taiwan.

The Filipinos stayed in the hunt for a Final Four slot with the win, their first after opening with three straight losses at the Taipei Physical Education College Gym.

Next up for the back-to-the-wall Filipinos will be Kazakhstan today, the first of four matches they need to sweep in order to advance to the last four.

Yancy de Ocampo and Dondon Hontiveros combined for 13 points in the pivotal third quarter as SMC-Pilipinas opened a 15-point lead before settling for a 56-47 edge.

"Ironically, we won playing our worst game thus far," said coach Chot Reyes.

Joseph Yeo and Ali Peek led SMC-Pilipinas with 14 points, De Ocampo had 12, Hontiveros 9, and Arigo 8 points.

A young South Korean team made up of collegiate standouts humbled the millionaire Filipino pros, 96-88, on Monday even as the American Athletes In Action squad stayed tied for the lead with darkhorse Qatar at 3-0.

The tumble against the Koreans followed losses to the Taiwanese, 77-72, and Qatar, 68-63. *Musong R. Castillo*

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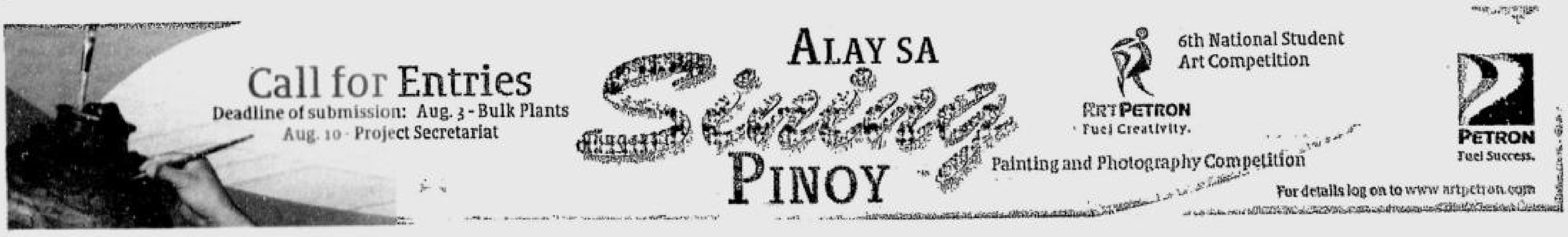

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Numbers count for RP Junior World golf bets

ARDINA: In the hunt
JUN RAPANAN

By Jong Arcano

SAN DIEGO—THERE WILL be over a thousand jungolfers from about 50 countries—including the host, which has plucked talents from 40 states— and only 12 titles at stake when the 2006 Junior World Golf Championships kick off Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila).

Aside from being a test of shotmaking skills, the Junior World has become a battle against numbers for the participating countries, and the 48-strong Philippine delegation will take a shot at those little crystal trophies whose sizes do not reflect the magnitude of their significance.

"You really don't go through the pain of traveling all the way from the Philippines and not have a winning attitude," said Bang Mamaril, president of the Jungolf Foundation of the Philippines and RP delegation head.

"These kids know that a trophy, whether it's first, second or third [place], is worth fighting for."

For 6-year-old Chloe Reyes, the only female Filipino bet in the youngest age division and making her first appearance here, as well as Mia Legaspi and Abby Arevalo, both 7, their task is to try to craft a fitting culmination to a year of hard work.

On the other hand, for current stars like Dottie Ardina, Wolen Superal, Miguel Tabuena, JR Gonzales and Debbie de Villa, the task is to continue a work in progress.

On their shoulders lie the hopes of the Philippines to sustain a streak of two winning years—and three of the last four—that started with JR Gonzales' victory in the 7-8 class in 2004.

Superal blew away the boys' 11-12 field with a record-breaking score of 21 under par last year, and Ardina, who lost her golf set to thieves on Sunday, won the girls' 8-under in 2002.

The RP kids' stint is supported by Philippine Airlines, Samsung, Pagcor, PCSO and ICTSI, which spends for a stable of talents.

Interest has also been rekindled in the 15-17 division, one that hasn't been sparked ever since Ramon Brobio won that class in 1988.

The player who has drawn a lot of attention here is Tonton Asistio, who tied for eighth last year—the first top 10 finish by a Filipino in more than a decade. Asistio will be seeking more than jungolf glory when he kicks off his bid at Torrey Pines.

A strong finish here could reel in a scholarship offer from any of the scouts of top universities who will see the action at the site of the 2008 US Open.

Winning in the Junior World was how the likes of Jennifer Rosales and Jayvie Agojo got their scholarships to top US schools.

Competition will be held in the following courses: Torrey Pines for Class A, Riverwalk and Sycuan Resort for Classes B and E, Cottonwood for Class C, Welk Resort and Lake San Marcos for Class D and the pitch-and-putt Colina Park for Class F.

The Philippines has 10 entries in Class A, nine in Class B, 10 in Class C, seven in Class D, nine in Class E and four in Class F.

Red Lions eye share of lead versus Stags

STREAKING SAN BEDA CHALLENGES SAN Sebastian even as embattled teams Perpetual and Jose Rizal battle each other today in the NCAA men's basketball at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The Red Lions are on a roll with three straight victories going into the 4 p.m. game against the Stags who are on a roller-coaster ride so far in the eliminations.

With electrifying rookies Samuel Ekwe and Pong Escobal providing the spark, the Red Lions are hoping to join idle Philippine Christian University at the top with a victory against the Stags who are at the middle of the pack with a 2-3 record.

But San Beda coach Koy Banal admitted that it won't be a walk in the park for his charges as the Stags are raring to prove themselves after former star Leo Najorda left them to join the pro ranks.

"You can't take the Stags lightly because they are young and the coach is full of enthusiasm and vision for the team," added Banal.

Coach by newcomer Raymund Valenzona, the Stags will have to count on big men Jayson Ballesteros and Francis de Leon and big scorers Jim Viray and Red Vicente to realize that dream.

Their first task, of course, is to stop Ekwe, the 6-foot-8 Nigerian import who has taken the league by storm with his overwhelming presence in the court.

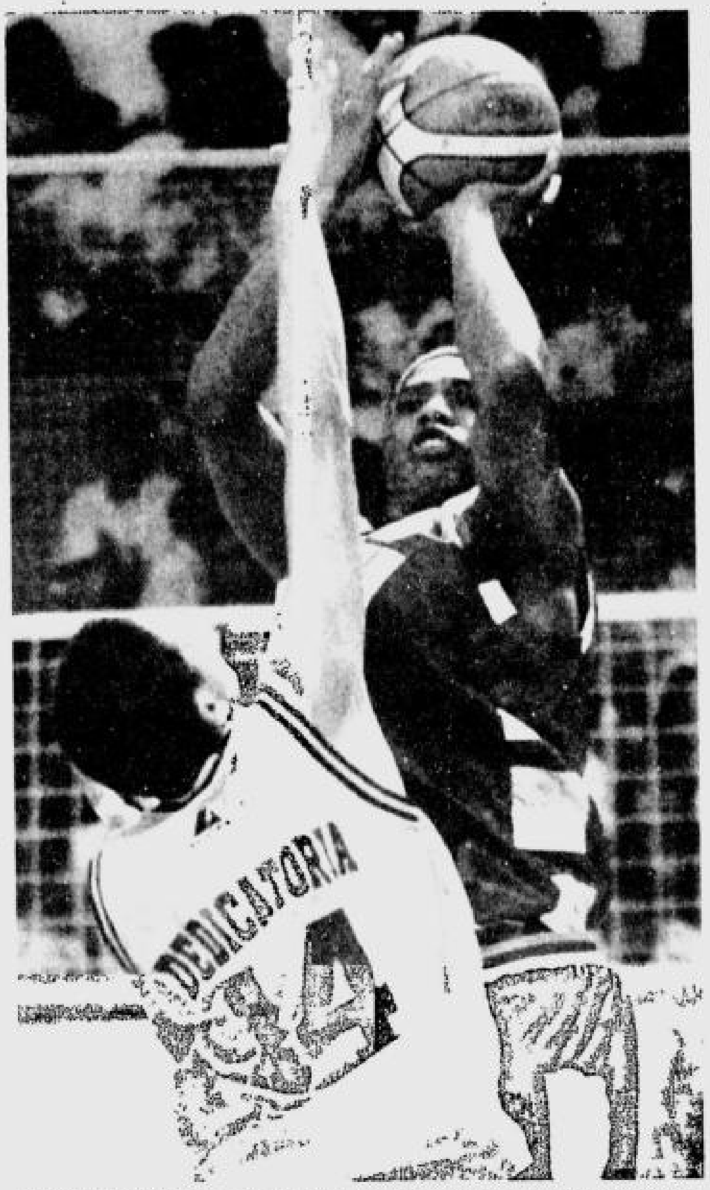
Ekwe, the exchange student from Lagos, has been keeping the Red Lions together, taking the scoring chores from resident gunners Rogie Menor and Yousif Aljamal. The 6-foot Escobal, on the other hand, is playing the starting guard position with aplomb, enjoying the license to shoot from the floor.

In the other seniors game, Perpetual and Jose Rizal hope to catch a lift that will put them back in orbit in the 2 p.m. match.

Both on a three-game slide, the Altas and the Heavy Bombers scramble to get out of the bottom end of the standings although Perpetual has a better record having won its first game. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

STANDINGS	W	L
PCU	4	1
Letran	3	0
San Beda	3	1
Mapua	2	2
S. Sebastian	2	3
St. Benilde	1	3
Perpetual	1	3
Jose Rizal	0	3

GAMES TODAY
(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
12 noon—Perpetual vs. JRU (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.—San Beda vs. SSC (Srs/Jrs)



PHILIPPINE Christian U hotshot Gabriel Espinas shoots over Jose Rizal's Floyd Dedicatoria during their game Monday. PCU won, 81-77. ERIK ARAZAS

Tejadas want GAB inquiry

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

HOW TIME FLIES, especially for people who are having a lot of fun.

But not for cager Eugene Tejada whose two-month confinement at the Makati Medical Center must seem like decades, centuries even.

Yes, it's been two months since the Mother's Day Accident and, unlike my previous calls to Eugene's father Danny, he had something new to tell me yesterday.

"Eugene's left hand grip is getting stronger, and he can now sit up at a 90-degree angle for 10 to 15 minutes without getting dizzy," he said.

Danny also informed me that his lawyer has filed a letter of appeal to the Games and Amusements Board seeking a full-blown investigation into the May 14 incident at the Ynares Center which rendered Eugene paralyzed from the waist down.

"We want to know exactly how it happened and why it took 40 minutes before Eugene could be brought to the hospital," Danny said.

He said it's too early to tell, but I have a strong feeling the GAB appeal will only serve as a prelude to a court suit.

Otherwise, what's the purpose of the investigation?

* * *

Filipino basketball fans in Taiwan must be very disappointed.

The Philippine team competing in the ongoing 2006 William Jones Cup has lost its first three games.

Coach Chot Reyes' boys bowed to the national team of Qatar, 68-63; the national team of Taiwan, 77-72; and to the Korea University All-Stars, 96-88.

With the 0-3 record, it is unlikely for Chot's Pilipinas Basketball team to duplicate last year's third-place finish. Even making it to fourth in the 10-squad tournament might prove very difficult.

The Jones Cup games will be aired on Solar Sports at 8 p.m. today, and every night thereafter at around the same time. Solar's Jude Turcuato will be doing the annotation.

* * *

Also scheduled at 6 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum, just before Game 4 of the Philippine Cup Best-of-Seven championship series, is the 2006 MVP Awards rites.

The word won't be official until 6 p.m., but according to the grapevine, Purefoods' James Yap has run off with the coveted individual plum. Reports also have it that as early as three days ago, teammate and fellow-MVP contender Kerby Raymundo had congratulated James, who is said to have been very touched by the gesture.

They said James felt very grateful to his teammate because he knew it took a great deal of humility for anyone to do something like that.

* * *

This year, PLDT head honcho Manny V. Pangilinan will celebrate his 50-something birthday with two major activities—a concert at the Meralco Theatre featuring Gary Valenciano, Regine Velasquez and Lani Misalucha (who was flown in from Las Vegas for the occasion), and the MVP Cup, an international badminton showdown featuring some of the finest players from Asia and Europe.

The concert, which will be preceded by "heavy cocktails," will be held on July 13, the eve of MVP's birthday, while the MVP Cup, which is envisioned to determine which of the two continents is truly the best in badminton, will be staged at the Araneta Coliseum from July 14 to 16.

A total of $100,000 in prize money is at stake in this year's competition.

* * *

Ateneo coach Norman Black looked drained after the game against National University on opening day of the 2006 UAAP season.

"We had a tough game," said Norman who admitted he did not expect coach Manny Dandan's Bulldogs to put up such a solid defense against the Blue Eagles.

Nevertheless, "a win is a win," said Norman.

Football body 'should be judged by peers'

By Musong R. Castillo

DISGRUNTLED THEY MIGHT BE, TWO regional football associations (FAs) still want the governing Philippine Football Federation to be judged by its peers.

Officials of the two FAs said that taking the problem outside the confines of the football family would be the group's last resort.

"If he believes that he is right, and if he is man enough, let's call a congress," Laguna FA president Jun Pacificador said yesterday, in issuing a challenge to PFF president Johnny Romualdez.

Pacificador spoke in yesterday's PSA Forum where he was joined by retired general Honesto Isleta, a former PFF president; and National Capital Region FA head Jose Vito Borromeo.

The group's tirade was fueled by the federation's continued refusal to submit its financial records for auditing.

Borromeo had earlier said that Romualdez's refusal was enough ground for the filing of an estafa case against the PFF.

"If the PFF is not hiding anything, then why not allow us to conduct the audit," Borromeo said. "(Going to the courts) is an option. But if we can settle it in a congress, it would be better."

Pacificador told the public sports forum sponsored by Pagcor, the Manila City government and the Manila Sports Council that only a congress can change the present PFF leadership.

"He (Romualdez) refuses to answer the issues (hurled against him) and keeps the real score to himself," Pacificador, a college professor at De La Salle University, said. "Replace Romualdez and we will see good changes in Philippine football."

Pacificador and Borromeo also accused Romualdez of mismanaging the PFF, of gross negligence and of wanton spending of the federation's funds.

Isleta said he is willing to occupy his old job at the PFF "if it could bring football back to its glorious past."

The two FAs want an audit to determine where about P90 million in PFF funds was spent in the last three years and how P40 million was budgeted for this year.

SPORTSWATCH

Makati 5-cock derby 2nd round today

ROUND TWO OF THE P3-MILLION "SALPUKAN SA TAGLUGON" 5-COCK derby gets under way today at the Makati Coliseum with 60 encounters on tap and B-Meg Derby Ace as sponsor. The opening round Monday was dominated by underdog entries led by RS Fairview of Roger Segismundo, Scepter (Nonoy Gonzales), Heaven (Wilmer Ting), Something Nice (William Co), Super Wac Wac (C. Malapitan), Spartan's RB (Rey Briones), Princess Pamela (Honey Yu), Greenfield and Singkamas Pride. Elimination rounds are also set on July 15, 17 and 19. A special prize of P100,000 will be divided among participants who will score two points. For inquiries, call 895-6475 or 896-3545.

P100,000 at stake in Sta. Ana cockfest

A PRIZE POT OF NO LESS THAN P100,000 AWAITS THE WINNERS IN THE "Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan" this Saturday at the Sta. Ana Cockpit on AP Reyes Avenue, Makati City. The event, which will start at 11 a.m., is expected to draw more than 100 entries, said host Nilo Lukan. Entry fee is P1,100. The fastest win champion will get the P30,000 jackpot prize. Pit manager Butchoy Olano said the event, popular among small-time cockers and breeders, will be held at the venue every Saturday. For inquiries, call 898-3474 or 898-3475.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—He's A Balong (1), Song Bird (7), Binukalan's Pride (4), Golden Touch (5)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Classic Royale (1), Mys Lady Hannah/Pure Energy (4), Yes Man (7) Speed King (3)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Brown Bomber (3), Spark (13), Freedom Charger (8), Yes Sir I'm Yours (4), Speed Terror (5)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—I Don't Dance (3), Gigi's Gold (7) [illegible] Amorosa (6) Head Turner (8), Perfect Time (4)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—King Foppy (1), War Bird (6), Silent Operator (7), Top Of D'Line (8), Sir Pierro (2)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Dona Nena (7), Clear Stone (1) Tiger Rally (8), Odyssey (1) Diva Sheikh (3)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—True Account (4), Superamerica (3), Sottnade (9), Lord Bem (10), Balang Danda (7)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Speed Bullet (5), Casanova (3), Suntino (7), Crew Cut (4), Time Deposit (10), Jolprop/Sharp Cookie's (11)

Ozamiz sweeps Tagaytay, barges into NBC finals

OZAMIZ CITY—DEFENDING CHAMPION OZAmiz Cotta ripped Batang Tagaytay, 81-70, in Game 2 Monday night and clinched the first finals slot in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym.

Six-foot-nine slotman Dom Yabut, Gerry Cavan and Bob Cozy Ilanga stepped up after Ozamiz's scoring machines, Marlon Basco and Billy Bansil, were handcuffed by Mayor Bambol Tolentino's Tagaytay cagers to complete the Cotta Shrine squad's sweep of the best-of-three semifinal series.

The Ozamiz five of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog will dispute the title against the winner of the other semifinals pitting Spring Cooking Oil-Parañaque and Pagadian. NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Cooking Oil Masters lead 1-0 and need to win once more in Pagadian tomorrow to arrange the title showdown.

Yabut collected 10 points on five-of-six shooting and grabbed 10 rebounds to pace Ozamiz, which is gunning for a back-to-back title in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

The scores:

OZAMIZ 81—Cavan 13, Yabut 10, Liangco 10, Ilanga 9, Basco 9, Bansil 8, Guerrero 7, Alberto 6, Sampilo 4, Caylan 3, Alvarado 2, Lapera 0, Libatog 0, Delina 0, Cabigkis 0.

TAGAYTAY 70—Marquez 14, Mallari 12, GUiyab 8, Finullar 7, Robillos 6, Caceres 6, Reyes 5, Mendoza 4, Pelejera 2, Sta. Maria 0, Cenido 0, Mordeno 0.

Quarters: 22-21, 39-34, 59-53, 81-70

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

RECAH Trinidad was unable to transmit his column due to power failure in his area. Bare Eye will see print on Thursday. —*Ed*

Young Irish speed devil makes AF3 a 3-way fight

THEY'RE NOT SAYING IT OUT LOUD YET BUT EVERYbody is casting a wary eye at Ali Jackson, the 17-year-old lead driver of Ireland's Aran Racing who won the last round of the Asian Formula Three Series at the Zhuhai International Circuit in China last month and is looking formidable going into Rounds 6 to 9 this weekend.

Even Filipinos Tyson Sy and Dado Peña, who have four victories between them, were amazed at how Jackson, new ace of the Irish team in place of countryman John O'Hara, posted a runaway victory in wet conditions in Guangdong province.

AF3 Corp. chair Ed Peña, however, attributed Jackson's high-powered performance so far to the Irish team's doggedness in putting a lot of miles in their racing machine in the off-season.

"He's [Jackson's] done a lot of testing in the off-season," said the elder Peña, "and the rewards are coming out."

Peña said the results of the coming races, set on Saturday and Sunday at the 4.3-kilometer Zhuhai track, will depend largely on prevailing conditions.

"Europeans are used to racing in wet conditions and Jackson showed this in Round 5," he said. "We will see how the coming races develop. If it rains, Jackson and the other Europeans will certainly have the edge.

"If it doesn't, Dado and Tyson can give them all a good fight. We expect a tough three-way fight for honors."

On the strength of his Round 5 win, Jackson has climbed into a tie for third and fourth overall with the younger Peña at 52 points, just four points behind Briton Dillon Battistini of JA Motorsports. Sy, of Speedtech Asia, still shows the way with 87 points.

In all, 14 drivers will be on the grid on Saturday, including Briton James Winslow who is fifth with 42 points.

PSC picks up tab for P30-M Philsoc debt

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION yesterday announced that it will shoulder the P30 million debts of the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee in exchange for the sports equipment which Philsoc purchased for the 2005 SEA Games.

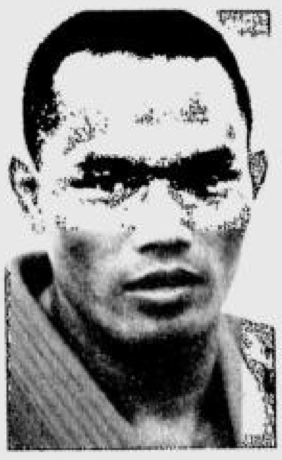
PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez said he has signed a memo with the officials of the Philippine Olympic Committee and Philsoc stating that the agency will be paying the suppliers the remaining balance for the equipment.

In return, the Philsoc will hand over the sports equipment worth P100 million to the agency for the use of the 1,000-plus national athletes, he said.

Ramirez said the gesture is part of the government commitment to help the Philsoc defray its expenses for the staging of the SEAG last December.

"If we can raise the money next week, then we will pay next week," said Ramirez. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Baylon nails gold


BAYLON: Beats Korean

SEVEN-TIME SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES gold medalist John Baylon added another feather on his cap by topping his class in the 2006 Thailand International Judo Championships held over the weekend in Chanthaburi, Thailand.

Baylon, still the country's top judoka at 41, bested all his opponents in the –81kg division to claim the gold in this tournament participated in by 18 countries from all over Asia.

Baylon beat Kim Young-hwan of Korea in the finals with an ippon in 12 seconds.

"Everybody was surprised by what he (Baylon) did," said Philippine Amateur Judo Association president Dave Carter. "That Korean guy is one of the top judoka in his country."

The Nationals also brought home a silver medal courtesy of Sidney Schwarzkopf in the –90 kg class. Completing the team were Gilbert Ramirez (-73 kg), Franco Teves (-55 kg), Elmarie Malasan (–52 kg), Estie Gay Liwanen (–57 kg), Lou-Ann Jindani (–63 kg), Erika Joy Ponciano (+78 kg), and coach Anecia Pedroso.

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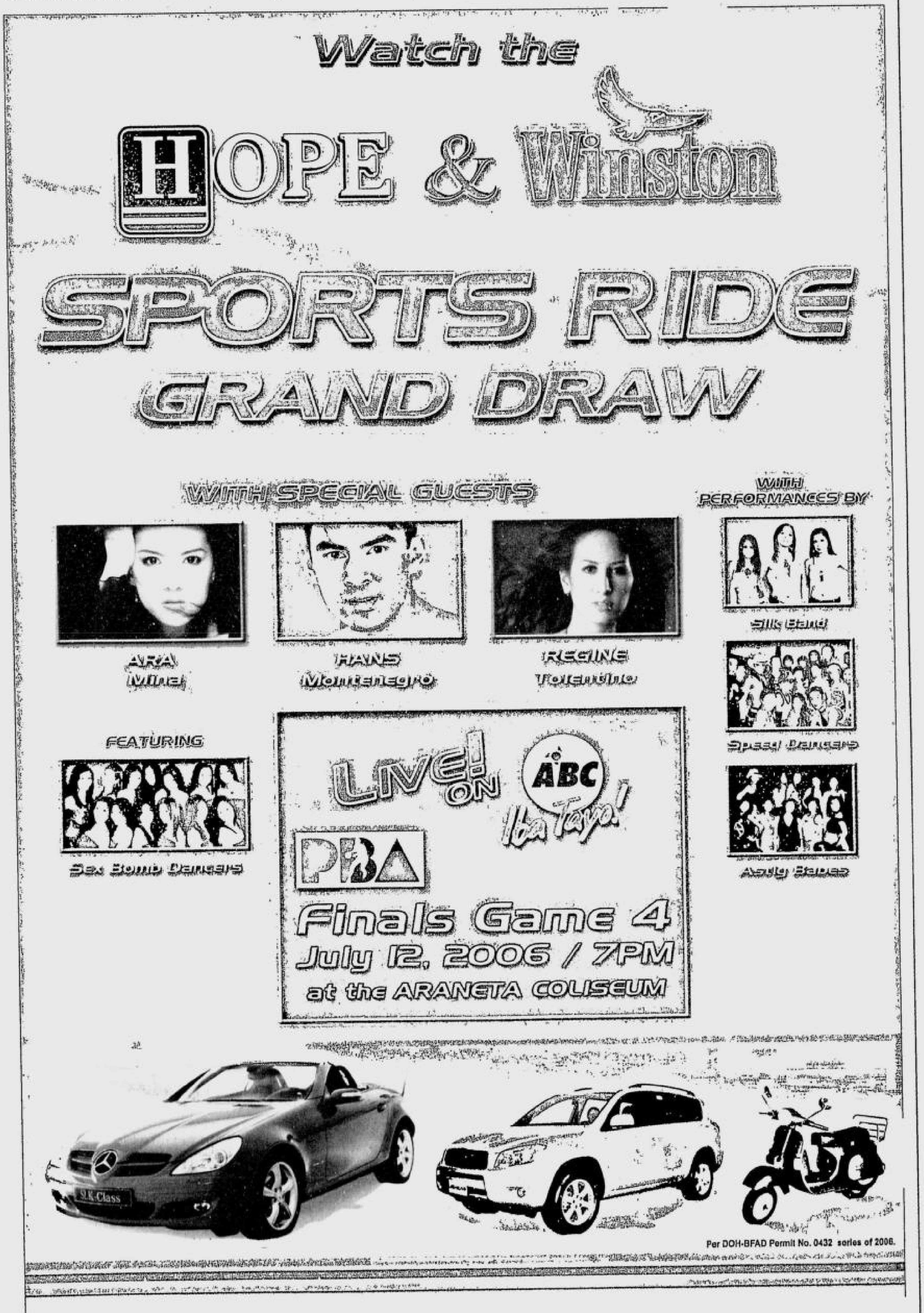
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Fans to Azzurri: Grazie

ITALIAN skipper Fabio Cannavaro holds up the World Cup. AP

Italy toasts World Cup champs

ROME—ROMANS LOST THEMSELVES IN FESTIVE frenzy Monday as the Italian capital threw a massive welcoming embrace around the World Cup and the men who wrenched it so dramatically from the festival of the world's top football nations in Germany.

Rome's left-wing mayor, Walter Veltroni, estimated that one million people had turned out to welcome home the conquering heroes as the team held a victory parade through the city.

Men, women and children screamed their joy as skipper Fabio Cannavaro proudly held aloft the gold trophy at the front of an open-topped bus. People scrambled atop stationary public transport buses and even Carabinieri Land Rovers to get a better vantage point as the bus turned into Piazza Venezia.

The team, some wrapped in the Italian tricolor, seemed eager to encourage even greater frenzy as the bus inched its way through the throng.

The trophy in one hand, Cannavaro cupped a palm to his ear as if to encourage an even louder response from the crowd, while Alessandro Del Piero stood precariously on a seat and pumped his arms up and down like a rock star.

Prime Minister Romano Prodi, perhaps indulging in a childhood dream, could not resist holding the cup aloft as he hosted a victory reception for the heroes at his offices earlier.

"We here at home shared with you a tension and suffering without equal," during the month-long competition, Prodi told the 23-member squad, many of whom proudly wore their gold winners' medals over their suits.

"Thanks for reminding the younger generation that achievement is wrought with effort, sweat and commitment," added Prodi. "Grazie. All Italians love you!"

The prime minister, whose beleaguered government is hoping to ride a wave of optimism to revive a near moribund economy after the World Cup triumph, handed each of the players a medal during the reception.

The event began more than 90 minutes behind schedule after the team bus, followed by a cacophonous posse of scooters trailing flags, was repeatedly slowed to a crawl on its way into the city.

The Azzurri's plane had touched down at a military airbase outside Rome two hours earlier, and fans who had waited hours to welcome them finally erupted into cheers when Cannavaro emerged onto the gangway with the trophy. *AFP*

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Xavier keeps lead in futsal tourney

THE XAVIER ALUMNI FOOTBALL Club crushed Pagcor, 17-1, to stay unchallenged at the top, even as the AFP Selection outsteadied Ateneo, 7-4, in the featured matches held over the weekend in the men's second division-A of the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championship at the Blue Eagle Gym in Ateneo.

Xavier's Benjamin Mendoza scored five goals against Pagcor's spotty defense, even as Raymond Cardova and Joselito Joson chipped in two each to complete the rout and put Xavier firmly on top with a 4-0-1 (win-draw-loss) card in the men's second division-A.

The men from AFP, meanwhile, had a difficult time beating Ateneo on its own turf.

After posting a 5-2 lead in the first half, the AFP Selection matched the Eagles' output in the second frame to finally secure the win—and solo second spot—in the tournament sponsored by Adidas in cooperation with the National Capital Region Football Association.

PJ Selarde and Lyndon Zamora scored the team's first four goals, which helped ice AFP's third win. Ateneo slipped to 2-0-2.

In the other match in the men's second division-A, University of Asia & the Pacific whitewashed Marines A, 6-0, to improve their mark to 3-0-0.

WORLD SPORTS

France to Zidane: We forgive you

PARIS—Most French forgive soccer idol Zinedine Zidane for his savage head-butt against Italy's Marco Materazzi in the World Cup final, according to a poll published Tuesday. Even if the rest of the sporting world remains appalled by the move, the poll shows that in France, 61 percent forgive the now-retired team captain for the head-butt, which earned him an expulsion in the final minutes of Sunday's game and marked a shocking end to his illustrious career.'France lost 5-3 in penalty kicks. More than 50 percent of the 802 respondents said they understood the star's reaction, according to the poll conducted by telephone by CSA polling agency published in Tuesday's Le Parisien newspaper. *AP*

Mauresmo tightens grip on No. 1 spot

MIAMI, FLORIDA—Amelie Mauresmo's Wimbledon singles title, the first by a Frenchwoman in 81 years, enabled the 27-year-old to consolidate her position on top of the WTA rankings released Monday. Mauresmo beat Belgium's Justine Henin-Hardenne, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, on Saturday for her second Grand Slam title. Mauresmo's margin over No. 2 Kim Clijsters of Belgium improved from 147 points to 314, with Henin-Hardenne remaining third. Russia's Maria Sharapova remained fourth. *AFP*

McLaren announces Montoya's sub

PARIS—Pedro de la Rosa will replace Colombian Juan Pablo Montoya, who is shifting to NASCAR' s stockcar racing, driving for the McLaren-Mercedes Formula One team, it was announced on Tuesday. The Spaniard will compete for McLaren at this Sunday's French Grand Prix, the team said. "McLaren-Mercedes and Juan Pablo Montoya have reached agreement that the driver will relinquish his place for the forthcoming world championship races," a press release said. *AFP*

TOUR DE FRANCE

A doping crisis and 7 stages but still no Armstrong heir

BORDEAUX—THE FIRST PHASE OF THE Tour de France has included a doping crisis, a prologue, seven road stages and a time trial but not the emergence of an heir apparent to seven-times champion Lance Armstrong.

During the opening week until Monday's rest day in Bordeaux, the 93rd edition of the Tour has been a race by elimination.

Among the pre-Tour favorites, German Jan Ullrich, Italian Ivan Basso and Spaniard Francisco Mancebo were the first to disappear after being implicated in a Spanish doping probe.

That also denied Kazakh Alexander Vinokourov the chance to ride as five of his colleagues were linked to the investigation, forcing the Astana team to withdraw.

Spaniard Alejandro Valverde pulled out after fracturing his collarbone in a crash during the third stage.

The overall leader's yellow jersey jumped from shoulders to shoulders until 36-year-old Ukrainian Serhiy Honchar of the T-Mobile team, claimed it with victory in the seventh stage, a 52-kilometers time trial.

The race against the clock was regarded as the first real test of the Tour but it gave few indications about the hierarchy of the post-Armstrong era.

Among the favorites, the best mark went to American Floyd Landis, a former lieutenant to the retired Armstrong. The other winners were the T-Mobile team with six riders in the top 14 of the overall standings.

Landis was second to Honchar on Saturday, one minute and one second. However, he defeated German Andreas Kloeden (T-Mobile) by 42 seconds, Discovery Channel leader George Hincapie by 1:41 and Levi Leipheimer (Gerolsteiner) by 5:05. *Reuters*

BF Resort rules Nokia golf

BF RESORT VILLAGE DOMINATED THE FIELD at Valley Golf Club the way it did at Forest Hills and assembled a tournament-best 308 to top the Nokia 3 division of the 2006 Nokia Cup intervillage golf tournament in Antipolo Monday.

Robert Reyes, a 10-handicapper, atoned for his so-so 31-point output in the first round of the 36-hole elims at Forest Hills by firing the maximum 40 points under the Stableford scoring system as he powered the BFRV golfers' romp into the grand finals.

BF Resort thus wound up with a 601, counting its first round score of 286, to post a seven-point victory over the combined team of Cinco Hermanos/Monte Vista, which turned in a 300 for a 594 in the tournament sponsored by Nokia.

Valle Verde 3/5 shot a 300 for a 582 as it finished third while former champion Greenhills 1 rallied with a 305 to snatch fourth place with a 571 and the last berth in the grand finals of this event supported by Pan West, BJ Marthel, Aktivade, Copacabana Apartment-Hotel, ImmuVit, CIBA Vision, Pisanti, Agua Vida-Magallanes, Forth & Tay and Citibank.

San Lorenzo struggled with a 282 and slid to fifth with a 571.

Marathon listing ends today

RUNNING ENTHUSIASTS FROM METRO Manila and nearby provinces will have until today to register for the National Capital Region leg of the 30th National MILO Marathon at the Quirino Grandstand slated on Sunday.

Race Director Rudy Biscocho is expecting more than 15,000 runners to participate in the Kiddies 3K, 5K and 10K events as well as the 42K elimination race.

In the 28 other qualifying races this year, only the top three finishers in the men's and women's divisions get slots to the MILO Marathon finals on Dec. 10.

In the Metro Manila leg, all male runners who finish the 42K race in less than four hours and all the female runners who reach the finish line within four and a half hours are qualified to compete in the 42K grand finale.

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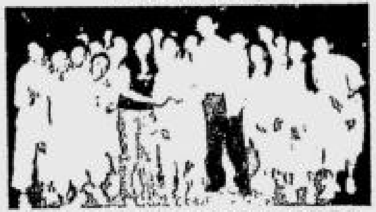

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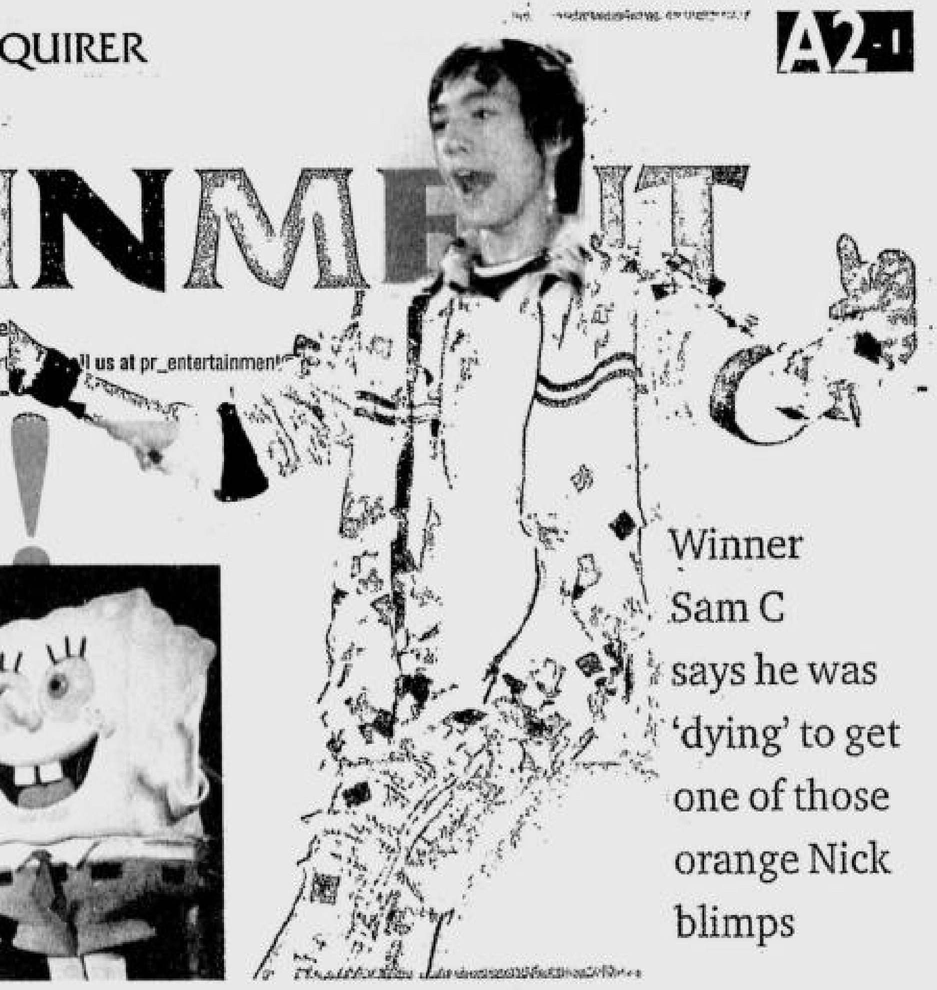

Winner Sam C says he was 'dying' to get one of those orange Nick blimps

Fun with a capital 'N'!

By Dianne M. Villafuerte
Junior INQUIRER

"NICK-NICK-NICK-NI-NICK-Nick-Nick-Nickelodeon!"

Heavy rains couldn't stop the kids from trooping to the Star City Complex on Saturday. With parents and yayas in tow, they packed the Aliw Theater for the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards 2006 Preview Party.

Avid fans of the popular kiddie channel were treated to an afternoon of fun and games to celebrate the awards' 19th anniversary.

Hosted by Nickelodeon's Noel dela Rosa and Alexa Ortega, the event was "circus-centric"—complete with acrobats, jugglers, a magician and a mime artist. The kids ooh-ed and aah-ed the time away. They were also treated to an exclusive preview of the Kids' Choice Awards 2006 held in April in Los Angeles and airing July 15. Guest band Sandwich brought the house down with "Sugod," the latest single off its latest album. The young ones sang along, to the amusement of the adults. What, this generation already knows how to rock?

Feeling 'weird'

Little Big Star champion Sam Concepcion elicited screams even before he was introduced. He wowed everyone with his dance moves. Then the crowd went wild as the multitalented 13-year-old was announced as this year's Pinoy Wannabe awardee and got slimed—a "prestigious" Nick tradition.

Sam, who had won the nods of Nick viewers who voted via text messages or through the Nickelodeon Web site, bested four other nominees: Pinoy Big Brother heartthrob Sam Milby, actress and commercial model Iza Calzado, boxing champ Manny Pacquiao, and TV host and Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity sweetheart Bianca Gonzalez.

Asked how it felt to be this year's Pinoy Wannabe, Sam said, "It's exciting! I've been dying to get one of those orange blimps! I'm just really happy." Didn't he find it weird that kids looked up to him when he's just a kid himself? "Well, now that you've mentioned it," he said, "yes, it actually feels weird! I myself should have someone to look up to! [On the other hand], that's okay. It should make me more responsible and help me stay grounded."

Previous Pinoy Wannabe awardees are Sarah Geronimo (2004) and Kitchie Nadal (2005).

Catch the telecast of Kids' Choice Awards 2006 on July 15 at 12 p.m. on Nickelodeon.

WANNABE '06 Sam Concepcion gets slimed, as tradition dictates, top right. This was after he got his orange blimp, top, from hosts Noel and Alexa Ortega ... and Spongebob! The Nick voters were as these acrobats, above, flipped and tossed each other in the air.

PHOTOS: RODEL ROTONI

A live-action adaptation from the popular Manga and hit anime series.
DRIFTING TO VICTORY
PG-13
INITIAL D
Edison Chen Anthony Wong
Jay Chou Shawn Yue Anne Suzuki
Chapman To Jordan Chan
OPENS TODAY

Cinemalaya director says this year's rules revised

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE RULES AND REGULATIONS for this year's Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival were revised to "make the event run smoothly," according to festival director Nestor Jardin.

Jardin, who is also president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, said some key points in the written agreement between Cinemalaya and the filmmakers were changed "in consideration of the needs" of the participants."

FELEO, right, and Jardin say the changes were advantageous to the participants. RODEL ROTONI

The changes were the result of discussions that the Cinemalaya organizing committee (Orgcom) had with last year's participants, said Jardin during the festival launch at the CCP lobby last week.

"One of the main revisions states that anyone who has not directed more than three films is free to join the festival," noted competition director Laurice Guillen-Feleo.

Evaluation

Feleo cited the case of director Ron Bryant whose film, "Baryoke,". was one of last year's entries and whose "Rotonda" is one of the eight full-length feature films in this year's event.

The festival opens July 17 and ends July 23.

"We always try to improve," said Jardin. "After this festival, we will have an evaluation."

A total of 108 full-length feature entries were submitted to the selection committee in September last year, said Feleo.

The selection committee was composed of Ma. Marta Ines Dayrit, Robbie Tan, Jeffrey Jeturian, Armando "Bing" Lao and INQUIRER Entertainment columnist Nestor U. Torre.

"The finalists were asked to submit a finished script instead of just a detailed treatment of their films," explained Feleo. "On Nov. 29, Lao conducted a one-day writing workshop for them. A month later, their scripts were finished."

On Feb. 24, the finalists began production and on May 30, final copies were submitted. Each finalist is entitled to a P500,000 seed grant from the Cinemalaya.

Disqualified

Finalist Jon Lazam's "Mga Anino sa Apuhap," was disqualified for failing to complete requirements, while Khavn dela Cruz's final copy of his entry "Larombata" did not beat the May 30 deadline.

(Another 10 finalists, for short film feature, were chosen by selection committee members Emily Abrera, Narciso "Jun" Reyes, Juaniyo Arcellana, Antonio Jose "Butch" Perez and Socorro "Sockie" Fernandez. Short features do not get subsidies.)

"We give young filmmakers all the help [possible]," said festival monitoring committee chair Robbie Tan.

Nick Joseph Olanka, a fresh graduate of the University of the Philippines who made "Ang Huling Araw ng Linggo," said he sought the help

CINEMALAYA/ A2-2

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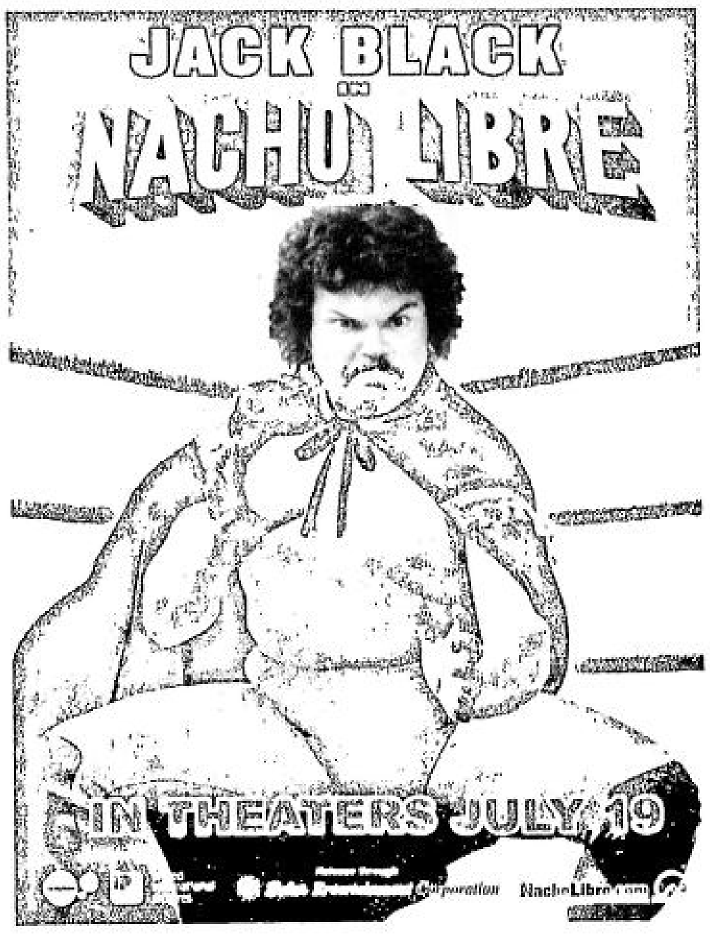
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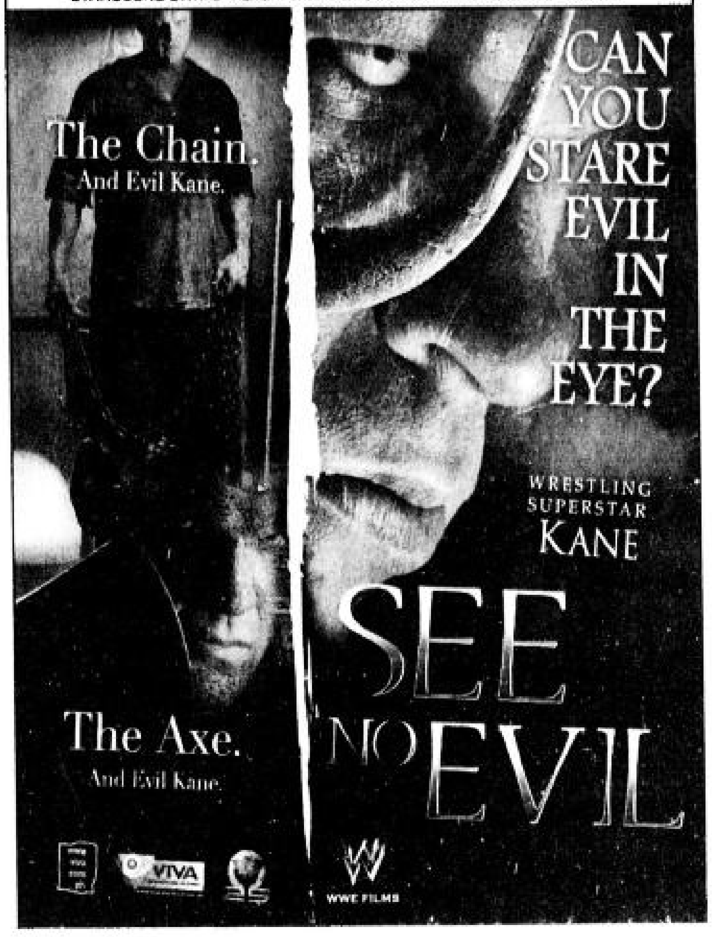
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Cinemalaya...

From page A2-1

of Cinemalaya to get Boots Anson-Roa, Johnny Delgado, Jennifer Sevilla and Baron Giesler to appear in his film.

Olanka said "Ling-go"—about life-changing circumstances that happen to seven people in the same week—took only eight shooting days.

Crowd control

Bryant's "Rotonda" was shot in just six days. "The only problem we had, since we're filming in Pasay Rotonda was crowd control," he recounted.

"Rotonda," a story on "human connectivity," stars Mark Gil, Epy Quizon, Emilio Garcia, Celso Ad Castillo and Meryll Soriano, last year's Cinemalaya best actress for Alfred Aloysius's "Room Boy."

(Tickets to the film festival are priced at P100, P50 for students and senior citizens. Festival passes (P750) and day passes (P200 for five movies) are also available.)

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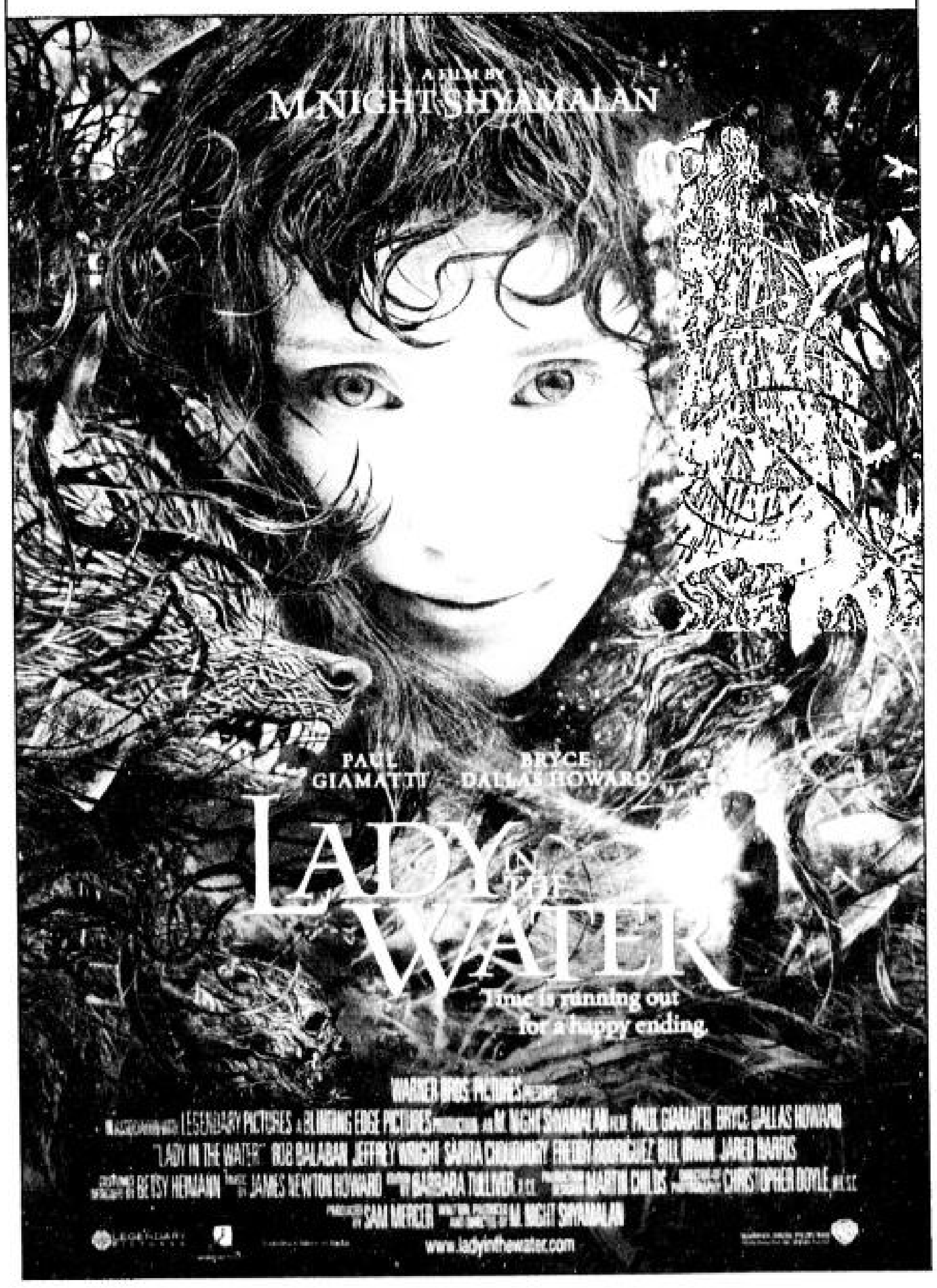
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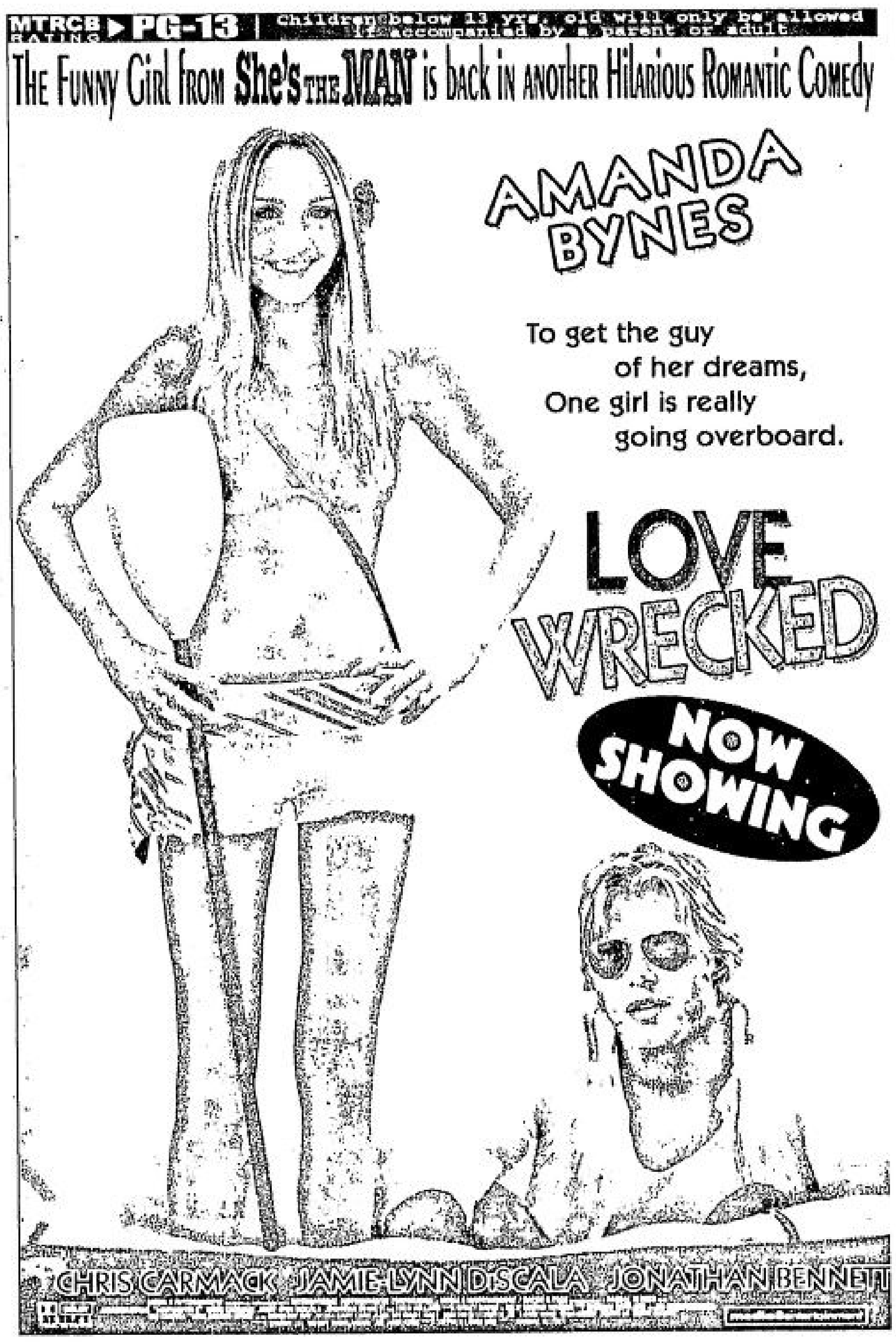
REMEMBER LOUIE HEREDIA?

Whatever happened to Louie Heredia? He makes a guest appearance on "MYX Live!," hosted by Jett Pangan, left, at 9 tonight on the music channel MYX. Louie, right was last seen in "Rewind," the reunion concert of the biggest 1980s artists, and "Silver," the 25th Anniversary Concert in honor of composer Vehnee Saturno.



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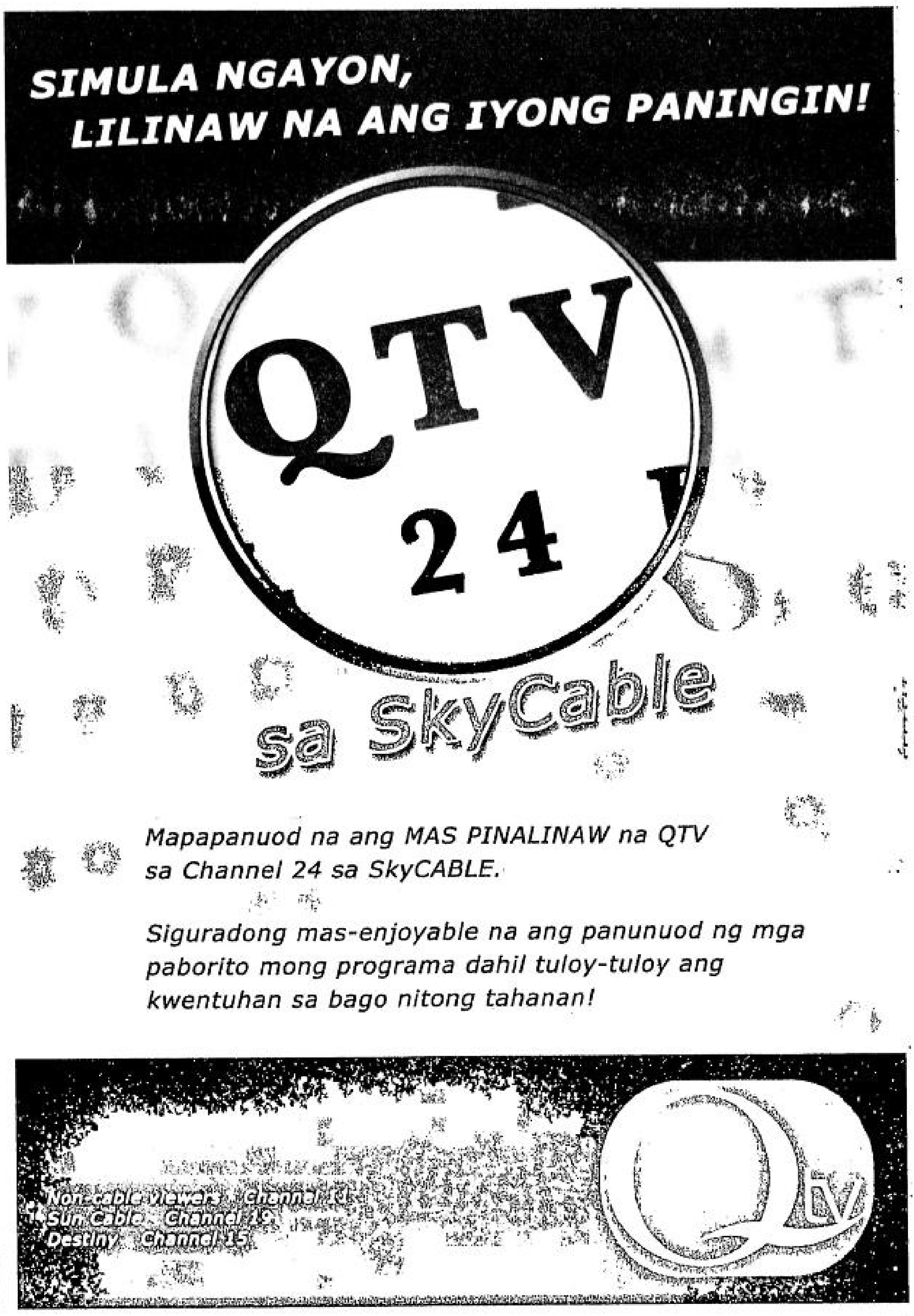

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8. Cut-off dates for entries Sunday, 11:59pm prior to the draw date. For the Grand Draw, cut-off date will be on July31, 2006 at 11:59pm.
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4 INITIAL D
5 BE HAPPY
6 UNITED 93
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5 LOVE WRECKED
6 SEE NO EVIL
7 BE HAPPY
8 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

NOVALICHES
[illegible]

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 BATAS MILITAR
4 BE HAPPY
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
6 INITIAL D

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4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

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2 BE HAPPY
3 THE NUN
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

DASMARINAS
(046) [illegible]

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2 BE HAPPY
3 BATAS MILITAR
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

ANGELES
(045) [illegible]

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 BATAS MILITAR
4 BE HAPPY

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
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PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

Walt Disney Pictures, in association with Jerry Bruckheimer Films, reunite Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley in another tale of further misadventures of Capt. Jack Sparrow in PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST. Captain Jack Sparrow discovers that he has a blood debt to Captain Davey Jones of the ghostly Flying Dutchman. As time runs out, Jack finds a way to get out of his debt or he'll be doomed to eternal servitude in the afterlife.

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SCARY MOVIE 4

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BATAS MILITAR

Mark Lapid is a dedicated army captain who discovers as anomaly within the Military that eventually gave justice to the mysterious death of his younger brother Maynard Lapid. Also stars Tanya Garcia and Mark Anthony Fernandez.

I WANNA BE HAPPY

Relax with this hilarious comedy featuring an all-star cast led Mr. Eddie Garcia and Ms. Gloria Romero. A must-see for the whole family

BATAS MILITAR

I Wanna be Happy

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BATAS MILITAR
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SUPERMAN RETURNS

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Local stars' woes

ENTERTAINERS IN the United States are up in arms against paparazzi, whose gung-ho, bullying tactics have endangered some stars' safety, and even their lives.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

In the Philippines, stars are generally spared such indignities and dangers. But they have their own share of woes that make their lives miserable in different ways.

Local show biz luminaries have to contend with the drastic loss of their privacy. Fans here think stars owe their popularity to their patronage, so they feel that they can meddle in their idols' private lives.

Unless luminaries set limits early on, fans believe that they "own" the artists they've helped achieve stardom.

This runs directly counter to show biz practice in the west, where stars feel that the only thing they owe their fans is "a good performance."

Local fans' excessively personal view of their relationship with their

WHY ARE/ A2-5

ROUNDUP

Record breaker

LOS ANGELES—Johnny Depp's boozy, woozy buccaneer Jack Sparrow has plundered the US and Canadian box office, with "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" taking in a record $132 million in its first three days.

Disney's swashbuckling sequel sailed past the previous all-time best debut, 2002's "Spider Man," which took in $114.8 million in its first weekend.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations, official trackers:

1) "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest," $132M; 2) "Superman Returns," $21.85M; 3) "The Devil Wears Prada," $15.6M; 4) "Click," $12M; 5) "Cars," $10.3M;

6) "Nacho Libre," $3.3M; 7) "The Lake House," $2.8M; 8) "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift," $2.5M; 9) "Waist Deep," $1.9M; 10) "The Break-Up," $1.6M.

Why are there so many young has-beens?

From page A2-4

idols is exacerbated by the show biz press and entertainment talk shows on TV, which love to pit stars against each other, unearth scandals and generally focus on the negative side of celebrities' private lives.

Like the fans, show biz talk show reporters believe that stars' scandalous conduct, whether real or concocted, is grist for the entertainment mills, and luminaries have to take the bad with the good in terms of media coverage, because they need the "publicity."

Stars here are also prey to their relatives' and handlers' exploitative behavior. These hangers-on believe that, since popular artists earn a lot of money, they have the obligation to support their coterie of instant "dependents."

Ironically, show biz no longer pays as much as it used to, so many stars are having a hard time making ends meet. But they have to sustain the *illusion* of popularity and wealth, so their relatives' demands are all the more stress-inducing.

These days, stars also have to worry about the new "Kleenex" mentality when it comes to careers.

In the past, producers used to discover talents who could have long and profitable careers. At present, however, the entertainment scene is so problematic, and fans' tastes have become so fickle, that new stars are launched for temporary rather than permanent popularity.

That's why we see so many new stars launched with a great deal of hype who are kept very busy for some months and make a lot of money—only to fade away after just a year of manipulated popularity.

As a result, the entertainment world is littered with many young has-beens—and there's nothing more tragic than so much youthful promise being cavalierly used and quickly discarded—like tissue paper.

Mensa test

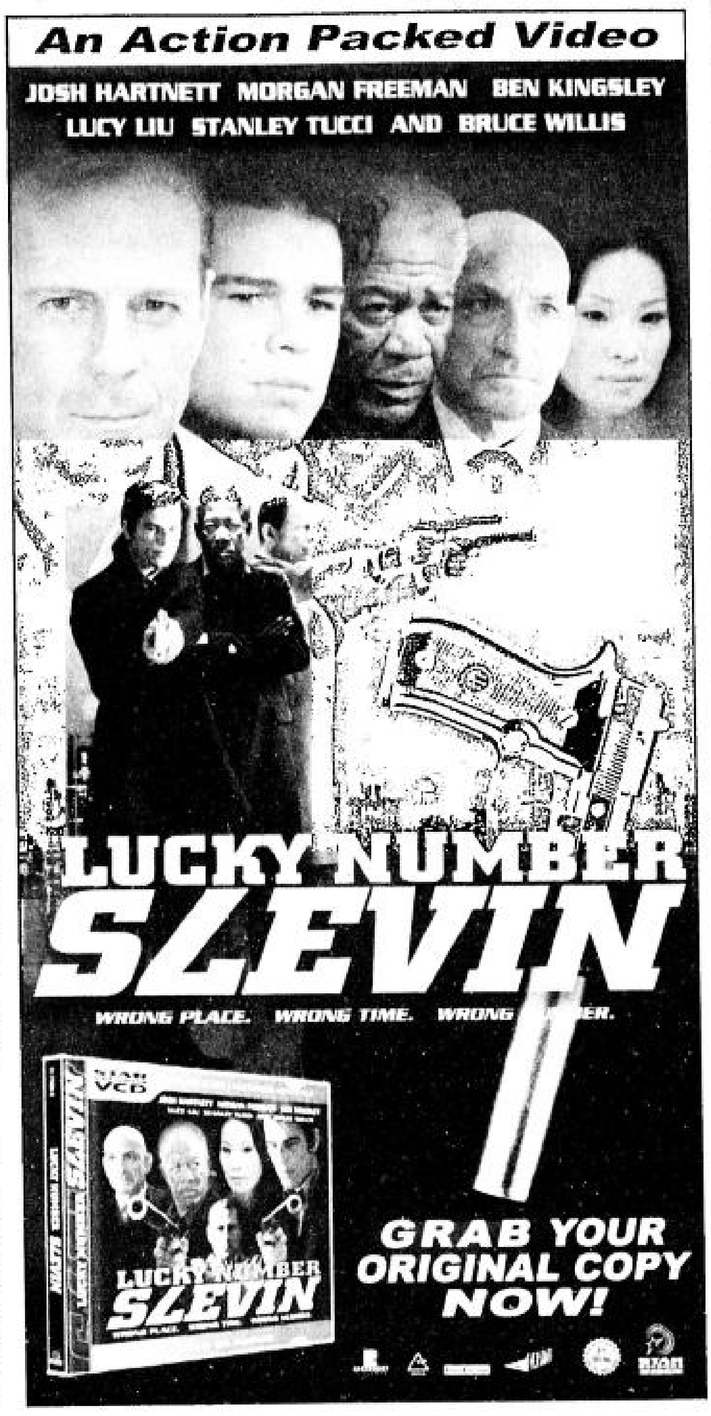
MENSA Philippines is inviting all those interested to join the ranks of Mensa members worldwide to take its qualifying test on Sept. 10, anytime from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Private Room, 6/F Oakwood, Glorietta 4, Makati. Scoring within the top two percent of the test is the only requirement for joining Mensa.

Of the type known as "abstract reasoning," the Mensa test is culture-fair and does not test for math or language skills. Providing a forum for intellectual exchange, Mensa membership currently numbers 100,000 in over 80 countries worldwide. Call 449-4612.

CCP dance show

TOGETHER with Columbia International, Anak TV will host all interested public school teachers and their families and pupils at the 3 p.m. matinee on July 9 of the "Unpublished Dances of the Philippines" performance by **Ramon Obusan's** dance company at the CCP.

The program will enable audiences to understand Philippine ritual roots and witness indigenous practices of the Ilocos, Cordillera, Muslim and Ivatan communities. Dance and PE teachers should benefit greatly from the experience. For tickets courtesy of Columbia's, call Aida Pasion at 242-1929 or 0918-9303898.



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AYALA MALLS CINEMAS' PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST'S SCREENING SCHEDULES FOR JULY 12

GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1** - 2:00 PM, 5:15, 8:30
Cinema 3* - 12:45 PM, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30
Cinema 6 - 11:45 AM, 3:00, 6:15, 9:30

GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1* - 2:15 PM, 5:30, 11:59
Cinema 2* - 1:35 PM, 4:50, 11:20
Cinema 5** - 12:30 PM, 3:45, 10:15

GLORIETTA 1
Cinema 1 - 10:40 AM, 1:40 PM, 4:40, 7:40
Cinema 2 - 12:40 PM, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40

GREENBELT 1
Cinema 2 - 11:40 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:40, 8:40

MTRCB Rating: General Audience (All Ages Admitted)
Caution: Film contains some scary scenes

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cinema 1 (THX) - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00
Cinema 2 - 12:00 NN, 3:10 PM, 6:20, 9:30
Cinema 3 - 1:00 PM, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30

MARKET! MARKET!
Cinema 1 - 12:00 NN, 3:10 PM, 6:20, 9:30
Cinema 4 - 11:30 AM, 2:40, 5:50, 9:00

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Cinema 1 - 12:00 NN, 2:45, 5:50, 9:15
Cinema 2 - 12:30 PM, 3:15, 6:20, 9:45

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THX

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	3 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 INITIAL D	5 UNITED 93	6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	7 LOVEWRECKED
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST GUARANTEED SEATS	5 LOVEWRECKED GUARANTEED SEATS	
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ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 SEE NO EVIL
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OPENS JULY 12

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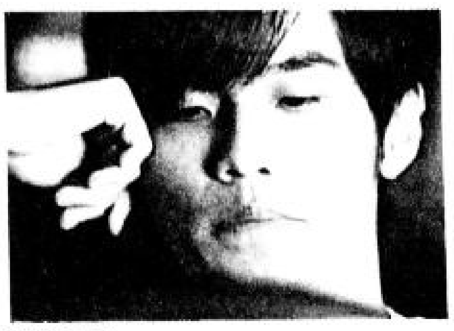
I Wanna Be Happy

Stars Gloria Romero, Eddie Garcia, Cherry Pie Picache, Diana Zubiri, Joey Marquez

Directed by Jose Javier Reyes

SEIKO Films drumbeaters describe this movie, graded B by the Cinema Evaluation Board, as a "compact family comedy ... [that] everyone can relate to." A repressed housewife (Romero) leaves her domineering husband (Garcia) on the eve of their 50th anniversary—leaving their grown-up children and grandchildren confused and exasperated. Director Reyes volunteers that this movie is based on his 1990s teleplay titled "Love Daddy," topbilled by Dolphy and Charito Solis and directed by Peque Gallaga. "I just expanded the script and added new characters," Reyes relates. "The elderly couple is partly inspired by my parents. In a marriage, two people must grow together. [Otherwise] the marriage ends."

Initial D



INITIAL D

Stars Jay Chou, Edison Chen, Anne Suzuki, Anthony Wong

Directed by Andrew Lau and Alan Mak

Based on Shuichi Shigeno's immensely popular race-car manga (Japanese comic book), the Hong Kong film version beat Darth Vader, Mr. and Mrs. Smith and Batman at the tills last year. It grossed HK$37.86 million, becoming one of only two certified moneymakers in Hong Kong in 2005 (the other was Andy Lau's "Wait Till You're Older"). Directed by the same scriptwriting team behind "Infernal Affairs," this "action-packed mellow drama" chronicles the adventures of gas station attendant-tofu delivery boy Takumi Fujiwara (Chou) who is also an aspiring race-car daredevil. Andrew Sun of the Hollywood Reporter hails it as a "slick summer vehicle." Stina Chyn of Film Threat points out that the visuals "magnify the intensity of racing scenes." V.A. Musetto of the New York Post thinks "the racing scenes are well done; unfortunately, they're too often interrupted by a cliché-filled story about one-note characters."

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest

Stars Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Bill Nighy

Directed by Gore Verbinski

This sequel serves as "prelude" to Part Three, which will complete the "Pirates" trilogy by May next year. The rowdy Captain Jack Sparrow (Depp) must pay a blood debt to Davey Jones of the Flying Dutchman legend—or risk eternal damnation. His shenanigans also disrupt the wedding plans of Will Turner (Bloom) and Elizabeth Swann (Knightley). Critical appraisal is mixed. Ty Burr of the Boston Globe complains: "All that's missing is a plot, amusing dialogue, comic timing and a reason to exist. Presumably these will come in the third installment." Kyle Smith of the New York Post concurs: "The chest is overfilled with exposition and physical comedy, without a doubloon's worth of the scary suspense and brilliant comedy [of the original]." Kirk Honeycutt of the Hollywood Reporter is impressed: "This production is a vast, expensive, sprawling affair that never feels out of control, thanks to the assured direction."

Batas Militar

Stars Mark Lapid, Tanya Garcia, Mark Anthony Fernandez, Maynard Lapid

Directed by Jess Lapid Jr.

Produced by the Pampanga Governor Mark Lapid's company MTL Films, this action flick tackles fraternal loyalty and military corruption. After the puzzling death of his younger brother (Maynard), an army captain (Mark) embarks on a quest—not just to solve the mystery but to expose the anomalies of military men, led by the father of his girlfriend (Garcia). This slugfest marks the directorial debut of Mark's uncle, Jess Lapid Jr., who once worked as fight instructor/director in the movies of Edu Manzano and Cesar Montano. He guided Angel Locsin in her underwater scenes on the TV show "Darna." The director is also a scuba-diving instructor, that's why. He insists, "We didn't cheat in the action scenes—especially in Mark's fight scenes."

SHANG CINEPLEX

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2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 MTRCB GP 2:40, 5:50, 9:00
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS MTRCB GP 12:45, 3:50, 6:55, 10:00
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 MTRCB GP 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10
PREMIERE THEATRE PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30 MTRCB GP

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SUPERMAN RETURNS G	SUPERMAN RETURNS G	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 G

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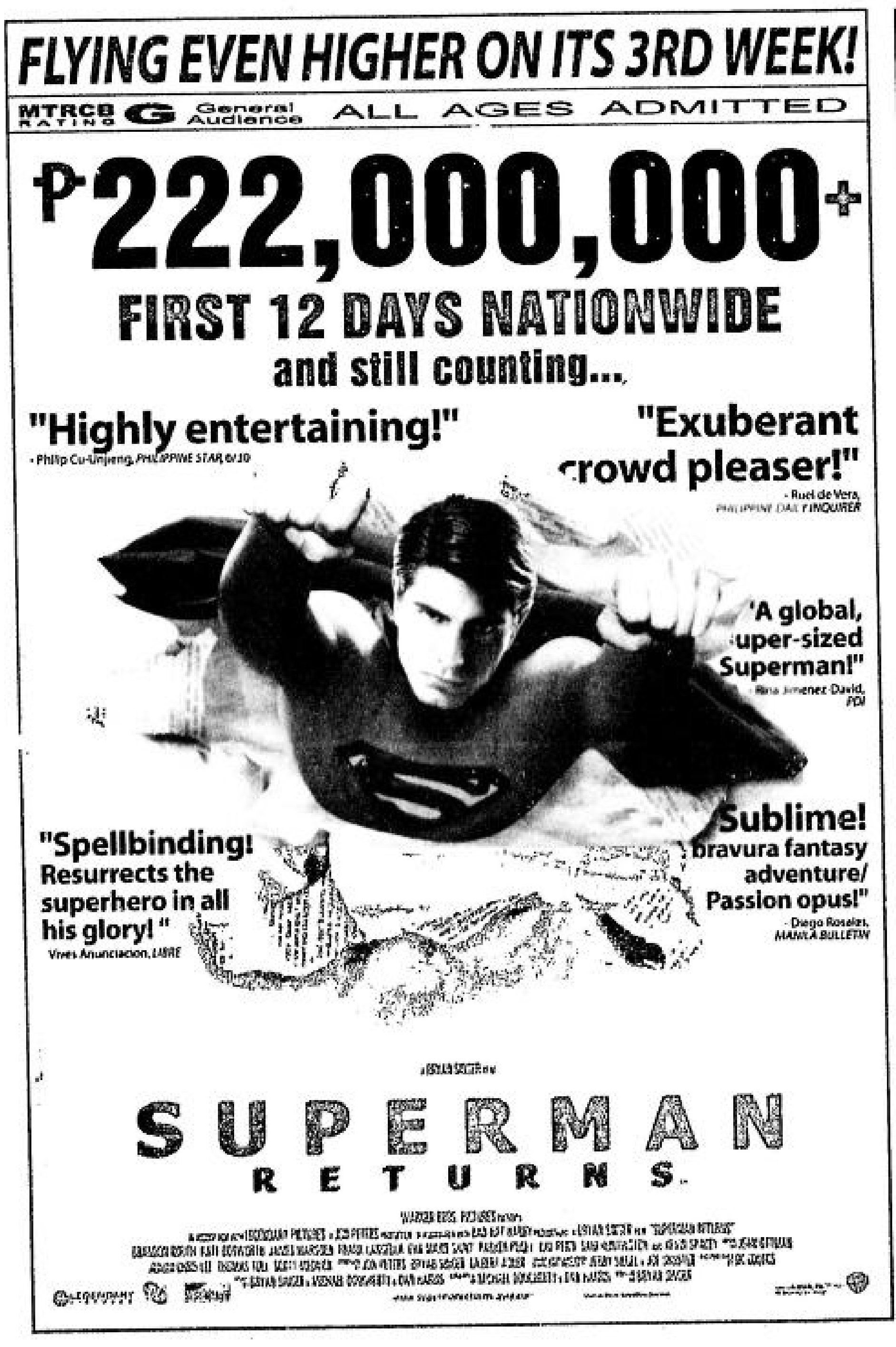

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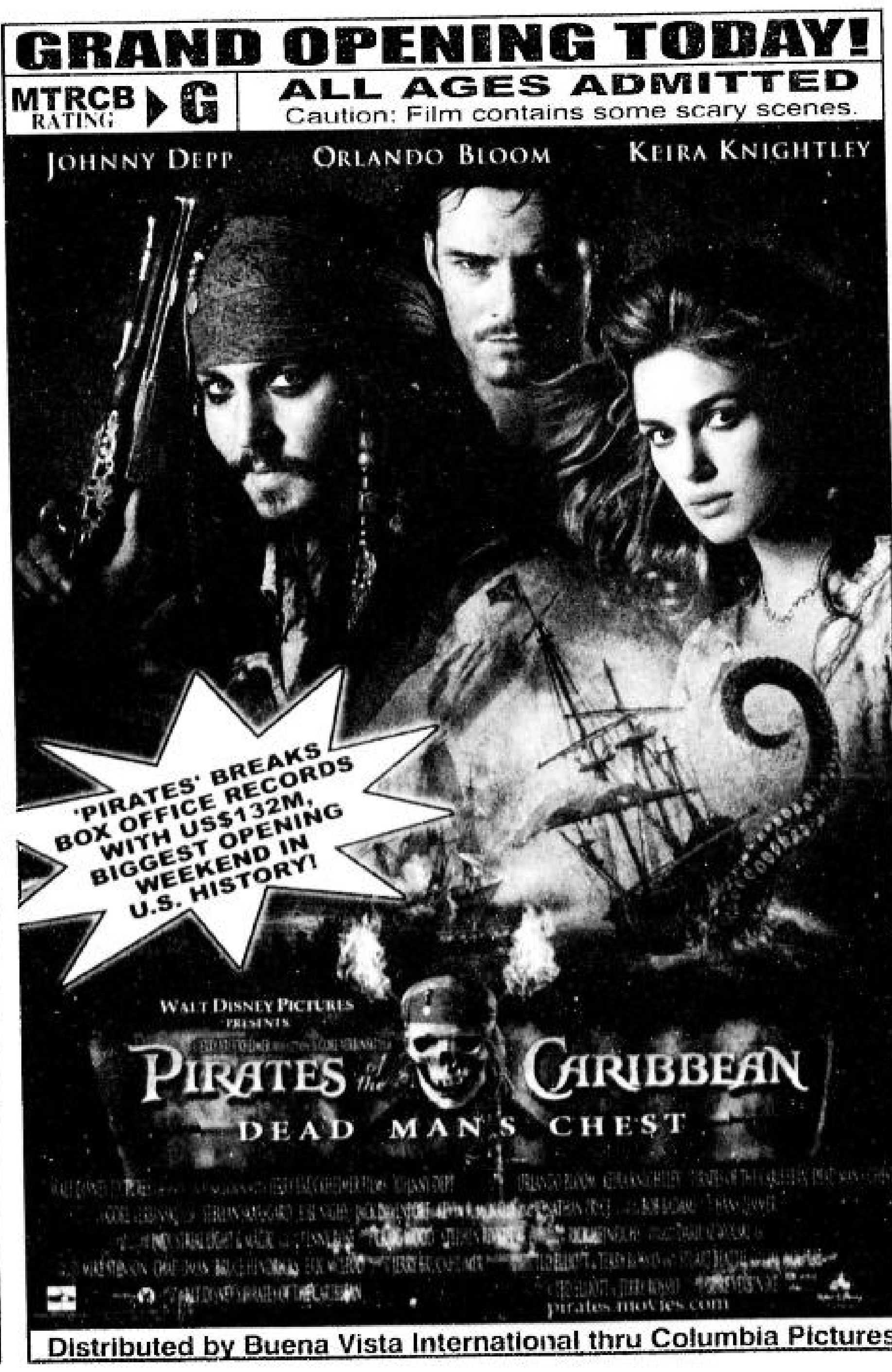

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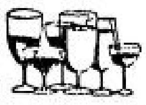

Valdes vs Valdes /B5

Meralco denies hand in Masinloc supply deal /B8

PC BUYER'S GUIDE cyber shops PROMO

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See PC Buyer's Guide magazine June-August 2006 issue Cybershops Section for details.

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Exports surged 17.3% to $3.88B in May

Share of electronics down to 59% of total earnings

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S EXPORTS MAINTAINED A DOUBLE-digit growth in May, rising 17.3 percent to $3.88 billion from a year ago, as global demand for electronics remained robust.

This brought total exports for the first six months of the year to $18.69 billion, or 16-percent higher than the previous year's level.

"The 16-percent growth in January to May made it clear that the 8-percent export growth target for the full year would already be easily surpassed," Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning at the Neda, said.

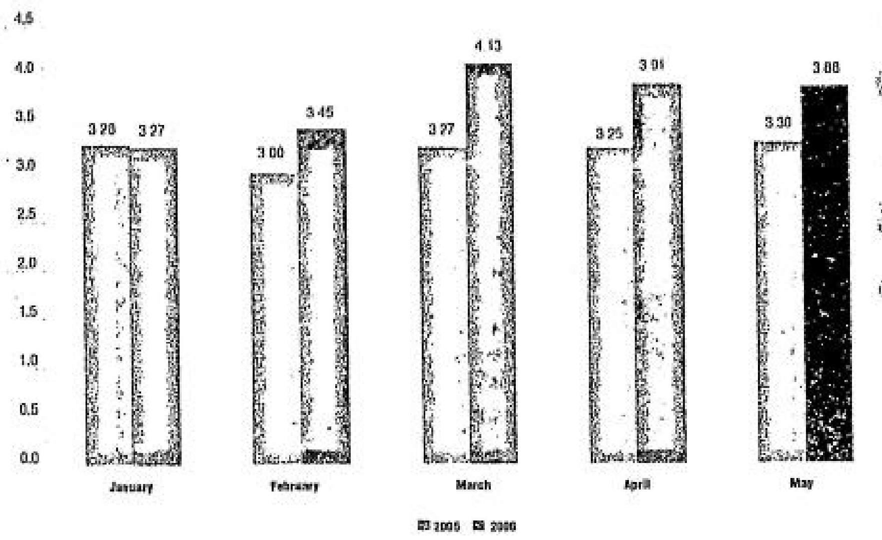
The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) said Filipino exporters continued to benefit from the increasing demand for laptops, cellular phones, digital cameras and other electronic items that are the the Philippines' major export products.

Documents from the National Statistics Office (NSO), an attached agency of the Neda, showed that electronics exports reached

EXPORTS/ B2

TOTAL EXPORTS

January to May 2005 &2006, in billion US dollars



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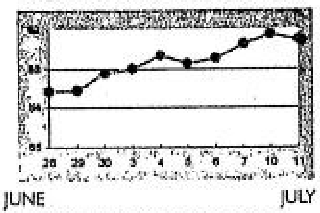

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Shares close higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.19-PERCENT higher yesterday after a sluggish session, recovering some of the ground lost Monday as investors looked for select bargains, dealers said.

They said that after a lackluster performance on Wall Street overnight, there was no

SHARES/ B2

DOF sacks corruption probers

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS trimmed down the number of its personnel tasked with conducting lifestyle checks on revenue collectors in an effort to revive the integrity of the Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS) program, which faces allegations of extortion activities.

In a memorandum, Finance Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza Jr. informed employees and officials of the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and of Customs that the list of authorized RIPS investigators had been reduced to only 17 from an original 28.

RIPS is the unit of the DOF tasked with conducting lifestyle checks on employees and officials of the BIR and the BOC who are suspected of corruption.

The move to trim down the number of investigative personnel of the DOF followed the

DOF/ B2

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Subic gets $7.5M in investments

Innove's $6-M project to help former US base a cybercity

By Ronnel w. domingo

THE SUBIC METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY has approved for registration 12 projects that will bring into the freeport $7.5 million in investments and create 203 jobs.

SBMA administrator Armand C. Arreza said the biggest project was the $6.3-million project of Globe Telecom subsidiary Innove Communications.

Innove will provide an end-to-end telecommunications solutions and a complete range of telecommunications services to business and residential customers in Subic Freeport.

"Innove Communications intends to help the SBMA realize its vision to develop a world class ICT infrastructure that will make the Subic Bay Freeport a cybercity and consequently, make it more attractive to investors engaged in related fields," Arreza said.

Also, Arreza said that of the total investments committed, 15 percent or $1.1 million was in the form of foreign direct investment.

Also approved was Taiwanese firm Taiming International Trading Inc.'s export trading and logistics warehousing business worth $560,000.

The other projects approved were Korean firms' Sky English Fluency Academy Inc. worth $140,000 and Freeport STS' language institute worth $70,000.

Sapphire Instruments Subic Bay Inc. will invest $120,000 to assemble and export differential probe for high voltage power measurement. It will operate an engineering center for research and development.

Topwin Stone Subic Inc. would lay out $100,000 to engage in manufacturing, processing and exporting of granite and marble.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is interviewed by journalists following a meeting with officials of Sumitomo Corp. of Japan and subsidiary Sumitomo Fruits Corp. (Sumifru). Ms Arroyo is flanked by (from L) Shinsuke Ike, Sumitomo Manila office general manager; Joichi Saito, Sumifru chair; Jesus Marcado, Sumifru general manager; Yoshi Morimoto, Sumitomo senior managing director, and Sumifru president Paul Cuyegkeng. Sumifru announced its plan to expand its banana plantation in southern Philippines with P1 billion in fresh investment. AFP

4-year bond rate up 187 bps to 8.37%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE 4-YEAR TREASURY BOND RATE rose breached the 8-percent mark to hit 8.375 percent in yesterday's auction, as volatility in the international market continued to influence domestic interest rates.

The new rate for the government's four-year borrowings was 187.5 basis points higher than the 6.5 percent recorded in the auction in May.

The Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee had accepted the bids despite the higher rates as demand for the government security remained strong.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz had said an increase in the rates was acceptable if it was backed by a huge volume of bids.

"It (new rate) is 187.5 basis points higher, but rates are also moving upward in the international market," Cruz said.

He noted that the new rate for the four-year bond was still lower than the rates for four-year bonds in the secondary market.

He said that in the secondary market, the 4-year bonds were trading between 8.4 and 8.5 percent.

Tenders for the 4-year bonds reached P21.195 billion, more than three times higher than the government's debt offering of only P7 billion.

The BTr's auction committee accepted P7 billion worth of bids, raising the government's entire borrowing program for yesterday's auction.

The increases in interest rates here and overseas were triggered by the successive hikes in the US interest rates.

Cruz, however, said interest rates were expected to soften soon as the US Fed had already hinted its intention to put an end to the successive rate hikes. He added that improving economic indicators in the country would create a positive influence on the interest rate movement.

World Bank backs compromise in Doha Round

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD BANK HAS URGED THE G-8 countries and representatives from the developing world to accept a compromise deal in the Doha Round of negotiations under the World Trade Organization during a crucial meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia this Monday.

The call was made by World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz in a letter to the United States, Germany, Japan, France, Italy, Britain, Russia and Canada and developing world (G-20) representatives Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa.

The Doha Round aims at lowering barriers to trade around the world, focusing on making trade fairer for developing countries. The biggest issue in this round involves agricultural subsidies, talks on which had divided developed and the developing countries.

"While successfully concluding the Doha round will depend on a detailed formula and a painstaking technical process, there is the opportunity for the leaders gathered in St. Petersburg to provide the momentum essential to success. Next week, a collective pledge by the United States to reduce agriculture subsidies, by the European Union to improve market access and the +5 members to limit tariffs on manufactures (a pledge that meets Chief Negotiator Pascal Lamy's "20-20-20" targets) could help seal a deal," Wolfowitz said in a letter released to the media yesterday.

Lamy's proposed 20-20-20 compromise involved an agreement between the G-20 "middle ground" and the developed countries on agricultural market access, a "Swiss" formula for industrial tariff cuts with a coefficient of "20" for advanced developing countries, and a ceiling of some $20 billion for trade-distorting US payment programs.

"The world's poorest people, the 1.2 billion living on less than $1 a day, are counting on your good intentions being transformed into decisive action, just as last year when your resolute political leadership launched the historic Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative," he said.

A pro-development result, the World Bank chief said, would yield gains for rich and poor alike.

"It would be an important step on the path to full liberalization which could eventually generate $300 billion a year in additional production for the world's economy. Developing countries could gain by as much as $86 billion alone, dwarfing annual bilateral assistance efforts," Wolfowitz said.

DTI chief sees capital inflows picking up soon

TRADE SECRETARY PETER B. FAVILA YESTERDAY reaffirmed his optimism that investment would pick up due to "renewed investor confidence" although total investments approved by his department in the first half went down by a fifth to P100 billion.

Data from the Department of Trade and Industry showed that the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority registered projects amounted to a total of P100.25 billion from January to June.

Of the amount, 44 percent or P43.8 billion represented foreign direct investments in infrastructure, manufacturing, real estate and information and communication technology sectors.

In a statement, Favila said President Macapagal-Arroyo had put in place a reform framework that rested on strict adherence to macroeconomic fundamentals, investments in vital infrastructure, and increased revenue through new taxes and enhanced collections.

"The results of our reform program in terms of a steady growth in investments, strong performance of export winners and jobs created for Filipinos showed that the reform breakthroughs at the macro-level have filtered to the microeconomy," he said.

Growth industries such as mining, logistics, health and wellness, tourism and IT-enabled services are being harnessed through public-private partnerships and are providing new opportunities for investors, Favila said.

Favila, who accompanied the President in her visit to Europe, said he had "very good discussions" with prospective investors in Rome and Madrid. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Guarantee on port loan questioned

A GROUP OF MINDANAO-BASED FARMERS and agriculture traders has questioned the granting of a government guarantee to a P1.6-billion loan used for the construction of a port in Sariaya, Quezon.

The Sargen Integrated Federation Inc. (Sifi) said in a statement that the government must explain why a guarantee was granted despite doubts about the project's viability, mainly due to its location and the absence of support facilities in the area.

The Philippine Export Import (Philexim) Credit agency had guaranteed the P1.6-billion loan obtained by the project proponent from a consortium of banks.

Philexim, an agency under the Department of Finance, guarantees loans for major development projects.

The Sifi said the facility "is too distant and too risky to be useful to local and international agriculture traders."

Farmer-leader and Sifi chair Edwin Paraluman said the port's location was not strategic and that there was no infrastructure support to entice distributors of farm products to use the facility.

The cost of using this port would only raise the prices of goods because of its distance to the market, Paraluman said.

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Shares ...

From page B1

real lead to follow, leaving investors to mark time after a volatile period.

The composite index was up 4.38 points to 2,243.22 after trading in a narrow band between 2,236.74 and 2,248.96. Volume was 940.25 million shares worth P805 million.

The broader all-shares index gained 1.82 points to 1,396.41.

Despite the headline index gains, losers led risers 44 to 27 on rotational selling in small capitalized stocks, with 42 stocks closing flat.

"There's very little reason to move the market either way," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

"Investors are now taking a breather after weeks of volatility, taking stock of events."

Dealers said the market would likely remain sluggish this month ahead of the release of quarterly corporate results and government fiscal data, with investors choosing short-term trade amid continuing concerns over regional security, high oil prices and the outlook for US interest rates. *AFP*

Exports surged ...

From page B1

$2.29 billion, up 9.9 percent from $2.083 billion a year ago.

Arroyo noted that the increase in exports was no longer as heavily dependent on electronics as before. He said efforts to diversify the country's exports were beginning to show results.

Realizing the impact on Philippine exports of last year's slump in global demand for electronics, economic officials had stressed the need to diversify exports to protect the country from demand volatility.

"Programs to diversify exports, such as trade fairs by the Department of Trade and Industry that help expose Filipino-made products abroad, already started to bear fruit," he said.

NSO documents showed that electronics, which used to account for 70 percent of the country's total exports, accounted for only 59.1 percent in May.

Garments were the country's second top export earner, generating $238.61 million, or 23.8 percent higher than last year's. Garments had a 6.2-percent share of the total export earnings in May.

Exports of cathodes of refined copper, the third top earner, reached $106.59 million, or 207.3 percent higher than the $34.69 a year ago.

Other top exports were: woodcrafts and furniture ($84.35 million), coconut oil ($65.07 million), ignition and other wiring sets ($57.68 million), petroleum products ($53.57 million), fresh bananas ($42.74 million), and metal components ($24.89 million).

The United States was the biggest export market in May, accounting for $703.45 million or 18.1 percent of the total.

Japan was the second top export destination with $672.18 million or 17.3 percent of total exports for the month. Earnings from exports to Japan were 23.3-percent higher then the year-ago figure.

Other top export markets were Singapore ($351.24 million); China ($345.59 million); Hong Kong ($321.71 million); the Netherlands ($267.90 million); Malaysia ($228.87 million); Taiwan ($163.64 million); Korea ($140.35 million), and (Thailand, $132.42 million).

DOF sacks corruption probers

From page B1

complaint filed by a Customs employee against four RIPS investigators for alleged extortion.

Victor Barros, Customs police sergeant, accused the RIPS investigators of asking P300,000 from him in exchange for clearance from a supposed lifestyle check. Barros said the suspects threatened to give him a failing mark in the lifestyle check unless he gave them the money.

The four were William Ached, Crispin Velarde, Jesus Bueno and Leon Acuna. They were among the 11 RIPS personnel that were stripped of their functions to conduct lifestyle checks.

The seven former RIPS investigators who were asked to leave the RIPS program were Ruben Frugoso, Troy Pizarro, Reynalito Lazaro, Joselito Fernandez, Senen Castro, Ismael Leonor, and Virman Sayang-od. The finance official, however, did not say whether or not these seven were also facing formal complaints of extortion.

Mendoza said trimming down the original list of RIPS investigators was necessary to build the image of the office and help boost the government's anti-corruption program.

"We are appealing to our revenue and customs personnel to speak up and report RIPS investigators who are trying to extort money from them," Mendoza said.

The allegations of extortion against RIPS personnel has somewhat tainted the credibility of the office in pursuing the government's anti-corruption drive. But the DOF said this would not hinder the office to continue conducting lifestyle checks, which finance officials said was still a good strategy of curbing corruption.

Mendoza noted that the complaint filed by Barros against four RIPS officials was not reason for the Customs official to be exempted from a lifestyle check. He said that there was an ongoing investigation on Barros for alleged corrupt activities.

He said RIPS would be undergoing a capability enhancement program following the approval of a $1.4-million grant by the US-based Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC). The grant, to be disbursed in September, is intended to train RIPS personnel and purchase needed equipment. *Michelle V. Remo*

GMA 7 says it can still get Ch 27

By Daxim L. Lucas

GMA NETWORK INC. MAY STILL DEMAND to have the programs of its subsidiary aired over the channel 27 slot of Central Cable TV despite an agreement that seems to have settled the dispute with the Lopez-owned firm last week.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, a GMA 7 spokesperson said that although it has agreed to broadcast the signals of its QTV 11 unit over channel 24 of SkyCable—Central Cable TV's trade name—the network "has not waived its rights over cable channel 27."

"To specify, the agreement letter signed by GMA Network, ZOE Broadcasting, and Central CATV states that, 'For the avoidance of doubt, this agreement is without prejudice to the right of GMA's UHF 27 to be aired/carried on Central CATV in the future if and when GMA decides to air Citynet 27's own programs in accordance with the NTC (National Telecommunications Commission) decision," GMA's corporate communications head Butch S. Raquel said.

His statement comes after GMA 7 announced an agreement with SkyCable to transmit its unit's broadcast signals over

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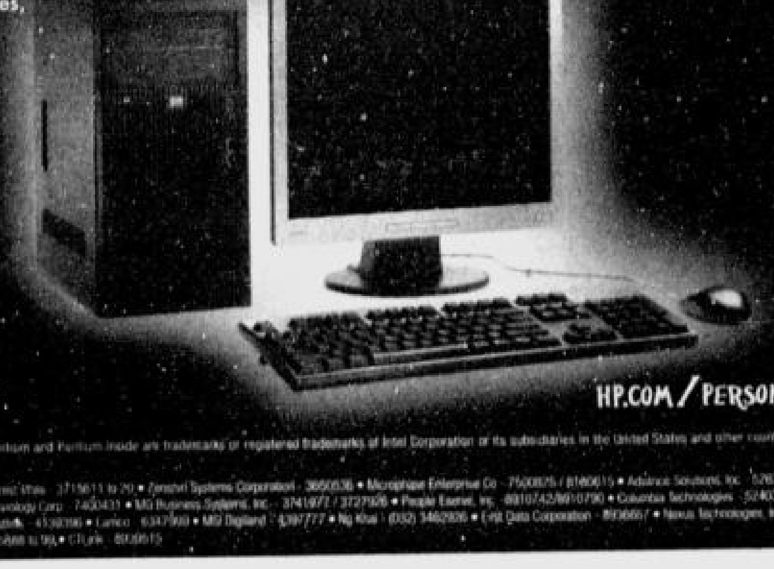

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Philex Corp. to revive mine

By Christine A. Gaylican

PHILEX MINING CORP. WILL REVIVE its Bulawan Gold project in Surigao due to the steady rise in gold and copper prices, a company official said.

The Bulawan prospect, which was shut down in 2002 due to flooding, still has some reserves and Philex president Walter Brown said in a briefing that the company was seriously considering reopening it.

"There is now work at the mine and it primarily involves rehabilitation and reforestation," Brown added.

Philex was encouraged to revive the mine by the rise in the prices of copper to $2.50 this year from $1.49 last year, and of gold from $405-$561 an ounce.

Brown said the record prices would boost the company's operating revenue once the mine is back in full operation.

The company reported a 377-percent jump in its consolidated net income for the first three months this year to P574.5 million from P120.4 million last year.

Philex said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange was attributed to the shipment of 20,082 tons of ore containing 9.4 million pounds of copper and 25,425 ounces of gold during the period.

Philex produces copper, gold and silver and gold bullion from its copper-gold mine in Padcal, a town in the northern province of Benguet.

New group takes over Legend hotel, casino

Services firm named liquidator by HK court

By Ansbert Joaquin
PDI Central Luzon Desk,
and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—YET ANOTHER problem is facing the operator of the Legend Hotel and Casino here after the Hong Kong high court placed the company under liquidation last June 9.

Appointed liquidator by the Hong Kong court was financial turnaround expert Alvarez & Marsal, which immediately dismissed Khoo Boo Boon as chief operating officer of the Legend International Resorts Ltd., the casino's operator.

Tasked to take over the day to day operations of the company was Alvarez & Marsal director Martin Yupangco.

The appointment of a liquidator stems from a petition filed last November 3, 2004 by Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Inc., a creditor of LIRL, to liquidate or sell the assets of LIRL for its failure to pay its debts.

Morgan Stanley claimed in its petition before the Hong Kong court (the equivalent of the Philippines' Court of Appeals) that LIRL owes it and another investment firm, Avenue Capital, roughly $120 million.

LIRL owes another P365 million to the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., which ordered LIRL to close its casino operations two months ago over the unpaid bills.

Lawyer Conrado Dar Santos, counsel for the liquidators, said that under Hong Kong law, the high court can place financially distressed companies under liquidation and appoint liquidators to rehabilitate the ailing firms.

LIRL, which operates a hotel and a casino here, has its main office in Hong Kong.

Tension rose on Monday when Khoo refused to recognize his successors. His men even drove Flynn's group out of the hotel's lobby.

Flynn added that he had visited the Subic property on Monday but was blocked by Khoo from implementing management changes in the hotel and Subic properties as part of the liquidation proceedings.

He claimed Khoo had prevented his access to the Subic properties—consisting of Legenda Suites, Grand Seasons Hotel and Legend Hotel, which contains the casino.

In a press conference after the incident, Khoo said the liquidation order has yet to be recognized by Philippine courts.

Flynn, meanwhile, assured employees that they would be absorbed by the new team.

Yupangco added: "We see huge opportunity at Legend to rebuild the business and protect the jobs of the more than 1,500 people that work there. We have already formed the clear view that rehabilitation is the best way to maximize value for all stakeholders, and with its existing operations and the prospect of regaining the casino license we believe that Legend has a sound and secure future."

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 11, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32	32	31	31	203,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	49	49.5	727,600
China Banking Corp.	865	870	865	865	100
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	610,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	75	75	73	73.5	125,200
International Exch. Bank	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	4,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35.5	35.5	35	35	405,600
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	50	50	50	50	200
Philippine National Bank	33	33	33	33	4,500
Phil. Savings Bank	39	39	39	39	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.25	19.25	17,900
Security Bank Corp.	46.5	46.5	46	46	14,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	2,100
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	29.5	31	29.5	31	8,500
Manulife Financial Corp.	1660	1660	1660	1660	10
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	211	211	211	211	250
Ivantage Corp.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.24	2,504,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44	45	44	45	615,100
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	46	46	45.5	45.5	396,200
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	15.5	15.25	15.25	132,100
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24.5	24	24	1,218,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	2,568,000
Petron Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.9	3.9	5,797,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	210,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	520,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	40,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.5	23.25	23.5	222,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33	33.5	33	33.5	276,900
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3	3	2.9	3	402,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	65	65.5	54,000
San Miguel Corp. B	72	72	71	71.5	51,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18.75	20.25	18.75	19.5	1,826,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.26	960,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	620,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.55	692,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	40,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.085	0.09	0.0825	0.085	6,300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	25,000,000
Ayala Corp.	400	400	395	400	318,290
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	254,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	500
A. Soriano Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.74	718,000
AFC Group Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	109,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.96	70,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.32	1.2	1.32	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.14	1.1	1.12	17,256,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	478,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	70,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.3	1,274,000
Keppel Holdings	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	180,000
Solid Group Inc	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	50,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	300,000
SM Investments Corp.	213	213	212	212	50,310
South China Resources Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.83	0.83	270,000
Vivant Corp.	0.83	0.85	0.83	0.85	30,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	11.75	12.25	11.75	12	12,901,200
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.06	1,632,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	3,100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.06	2.1	2.06	2.08	441,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	2,140,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	2,363,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	10,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	6,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	140,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.44	437,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	660,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	10.75	11	10.75	11	277,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
SM Development Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.8	603,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,400,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.5	18,200
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.24	1,210,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	940	940	930	930	29,520
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.4	3.45	3.3	3.4	1,293,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1945	1965	1945	1965	22,210
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	200,000
Ionics Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.88	1.88	60,000
Philweb Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	79,800,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.25	14.25	14	14	218,900
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.45	4.5	4.45	4.5	1,578,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	105,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.23	0.23	0.21	0.23	1,700,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	400,000
EDUCATION					
IPeople Inc.	3	3	2.95	2.95	56,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	2	30,000
Paxys Inc.	11	11	11	11	29,800
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	25	25	25	25	250,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	3.75	3.75	3.45	3.45	4,708,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.4	1,967,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	5,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.9	7.9	7.6	7.6	471,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	2,290,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	5,360,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	291,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.028	0.026	0.027	196,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	15,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4	4	3.9	3.95	4,419,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.05	4.05	3.95	4	5,330,000
Semirara Mining Corp	27	27	26.5	27	42,900
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.01	103,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,700,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.22	1.24	1.2	1.22	534,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.2	1.26	1.2	1.26	406,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	16.75	16.75	16	16	210,300
PREFERRED					
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	11	11	11	11	200
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	16.75	17	16.75	16.75	1,260,000

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*Source: BusinessWorld Top 1000 Corporations in the Philippines 2005 (based on 2004 performance)

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Big screen TV sales up

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LEADING APPLIANCES VENDOR Abenson is banking on liquid crystal display television sets to boost its sales as more Filipinos are buying big screen TVs.

Abenson president Winston Lim said yesterday in a briefing that Filipinos' viewing taste has become sophisticated, thus they were more likely to pick bigger screens should they decide to upgrade.

Citing a study made by global research group Growth for Knowledge or GfK, Lim said that the popularity of LCDs in Metro Manila alone grew by 242 percent—in terms of units sold—in the past year.

Lim said Abenson sales of LCD TVs grew 300 percent in the same period.

"The local market is following the global trend in adapting LCD, which is the fastest growing segment in in the big screen segment," Lim said.

He explains that while screens bigger than 25 inches were considered "big," the demarcation line for mainstream buyers hovers between 32 and 40 inches.

Further, Lim said falling prices would boost sales of LCDs as GfK figures show that 32-inch units were selling at half the price of last year, while prices of 37-inch and 40-inch sets fell 70 percent and 65 percent, respectively.

He said a 32-inch LCD TV currently sells at almost P100,000, but that trends point to a continued downtrend in prices.

"We believe LCDs will be top sellers in the next three years, with one out of five households having a big screen TV," Lim said.

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GMA 7 ...

From page B3

channel 24 instead of the channel 27 which it had initially demanded.

The unexpected move was announced after telecommunications regulators ruled in favor of GMA 7 Network in its dispute with SkyCable over the channel assignment.

Had GMA 7 opted to exercise its full rights under the NTC's decision, it would have displaced the popular ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) from the disputed channel slot.

An NTC official familiar with the case said GMA 7 used the regulator's decision as a bargaining chip, but never had any intention of applying the full force of the recent ruling.

"They only wanted to use it to make sure that [their unit's] signals would not be assigned to channel 99, for example, or some other inconvenient [channel assignment]," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Without the NTC's decision favoring GMA 7, the official said SkyCable would have been able to assign the signals of GMA 7 or its units "anywhere" with impunity.

"With this order, [GMA 7] can approach SkyCable and bargain for a good channel assignment," the official said, explaining the network's unorthodox move.

CURRENCIES

July 11, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.784929	1.000000	52.1350
Japan	Yen	0.006876	0.008760	0.4567
United Kingdom	Pound	1.445683	1.841800	96.0222
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101009	0.128685	6.7090
Switzerland	Franc	0.638154	0.813008	42.3862
Canada	Dollar	0.698087	0.889363	46.3669
Singapore	Dollar	0.498400	0.634961	33.1037
Australia	Dollar	0.587302	0.748223	39.0086
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.082151	2.652661	138.2965
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209309	0.266660	13.9023
Brunei	Dollar	0.496822	0.632951	32.9989
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000111	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020760	0.026448	1.3789
UAE	Dirham	0.213703	0.272257	14.1941
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.274000	66.4200
Argentina	Peso	0.254434	0.324149	16.8995
Brazil	Real	0.361936	0.461106	24.0398
Denmark	Kroner	0.134041	0.170768	8.9030
India	Rupee	0.017075	0.021753	1.1341
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215640	0.274725	14.3228
Mexico	New Peso	0.071308	0.090847	4.7363
New Zealand	Dollar	0.478878	0.610091	31.8071
Norway	Kroner	0.125032	0.159291	8.3046
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013023	0.016591	0.8650
South Africa	Rand	0.110858	0.141233	7.3632
Korea	Won	0.000834	0.001062	0.0554
Sweden	Kroner	0.109009	0.138877	7.2404
Syria	Pound	0.015121	0.019264	1.0043
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024296	0.030953	1.6137
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000366	0.000466	0.0243

Brokers join Ayala offering

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXchange said Ayala Corp.'s P3-billion primary offering of a block of preferred shares has started last July 10 with the participation of the member brokers.

PSE president and chief executive officer Francis Lim said interested investors, who want to join the offering, may course their application for allocations through trading participants of the PSE.

Lim said the trading participants have until noon of Wednesday, July 12 to accept the request for allocations from investors.

After the July 12 deadline, the investors may course their request for allocations directly to the underwriters of the Ayala Corporation offering.

Ayala Corporation is offering 30 million preferred shares at P100 a share. Interested investors may buy a minimum of 500 shares worth P50,000.

Valdes vs Valdes

AN INHERITANCE FIGHT HAS ERUPTED among the 10 children of accounting legend Carlos J. Valdes, with his eldest now facing three criminal charges for allegedly having acquired his parents' Baguio property through a spurious deed of sale.

Gabriel A.S. Valdes, 61, the father of fashion designer Bea Valdes, was said to have bought for more than P23 million his parents' 7,124.54-square-meter property at 2 Cecilio Apostol St., adjacent to the Mansion House.

The questioned deed of sale was effected in December 2005 with the signatures of his parents, except that Gabriel A.S. Valdes' mother had passed away two years earlier.

The 87-year-old father—a former ambassador to Italy, the Vatican and Japan during the Marcos years—is in frail health and his business interests are now being administered by the accused, according to the grapevine.

In his defense, the accused instead blamed the notary public, lawyer Hermenigildo Monta, for the irregularities, "who made it appear that Carlos J. Valdes, who was in and out of hospitals at that time, appeared before him and executed that false deed of sale."

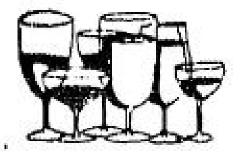
The eldest sibling claimed the youngest, Jose Marie A.S. Valdes, 48, not only filed the complaint but also fabricated the documents to implicate him.

The accused faces two estafa cases before Baguio RTC Judge Fernando Pamintuan, and another case for use of falsified document before the Baguio Municipal Trial Court.

According to the grapevine, because of the suit, Jose Marie is now being ejected by his eldest brother from the sprawling family farm in Bagac, Bataan, where, despite his Italian education, Jose Marie has been posted by his father to live and oversee the farm at a monthly allowance of P15,000.

The eldest Valdes sibling himself lives in North Forbes, in a property owned by the late jeweller Fe Panlilio, whose daughter, Pamela, he is married to. The Valdeses also own the seven-story CJV building on Aguirre Street in Legaspi Village, which still houses the father's much reduced law office.

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

Notwithstanding his stature in society, the Supreme Court in 1998 suspended the former ambassador for one year, for having allowed his law firm to represent the estate of Jose Nakpil against its creditors while his accounting firm represented two estate creditors.

The Carlos J. Valdes accountancy practice has also been reduced to a ghost of its glorious self, after the walkout of 14 of the 15 partners in 1995.

Part of the extensive Valdes property holdings in Bataan include what is now known as the Anvaya Cove, which has since been bought and developed by Ayala Land into a luxury resort.

Money-go-round

- CONSTRUCTION magnate Isidro Consunji has taken over the CEO post of Semirara Mining Corp. from his younger brother Victor, who has agreed to slide down as chief operating officer.
- ASIAKONSTRUCT, which built the Centennial Expo in Clark during the Ramos years, has been awarded a subcontract to build a runway for the new Qatar International Airport.

AsiaKonstruct CEO Edgardo Angeles is now rushing the travel documents of more than 400 engineers and construction crew to be deployed for the prestige project.

Heard through the grapevine

THE OWNERSHIP of the new De La Salle school in Balanga, Bataan, administered by anti-GMA Bro. Bernard Oca is in jeopardy since it is part of the Valdes estate that had been "donated" to the Catholic Church by the eldest Valdes son without the consent of the other Valdes heirs.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

San Miguel, Coca-Cola in talks on fate of local bottling venture

US firm may buy back RP unit

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AMERICAN BEVERAGE GIANT THE COCA-Cola Co. may buy back a majority stake in its Philippine bottler from its local partner San Miguel Corp.

A statement issued by San Miguel to the Philippine Stock Exchange said the local brewer, which holds 65 percent of the venture, was in talks with Atlanta-based Coca-Cola over their venture, Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc (CCBPI).

"The company and the Coca-Cola Co. continue their discussions on the ownership of CCBPI. The discussions, at this time, include negotiations over The Coca Cola Co. taking a majority stake in, and management and operational control of, CCBPI," San Miguel said.

It stressed that no definite agreements have been reached so far.

CCBPI is one of the top 10 bottlers of Coca-Cola worldwide.

Earlier reports said that Coca-Cola was set to terminate the bottling agreement with San Miguel amid weak sales.

Sources said San Miguel and Coca-Cola were initially reviewing the terms relating to the price at which San Miguel pays for Coke's concentrate, a key factor that determines the cost for bottling the popular beverage brand.

They added that the talks have taken a major turn, discussing the possible divestment by San Miguel of its stake in the soft drinks venture.

CCBPI—which includes Cosmos Bottling Corp. and Philippine Beverage Partners—accounts for 15 percent of San Miguel's total revenues.

In terms of operating income, CCBPI accounts for 5 percent of San Miguel's total.

Recently, San Miguel postponed a proposed hybrid share offer by San Miguel Capital Funding Ltd. after the group received an anonymous and undated letter alleging overstated sales in one of San Miguel's subsidiaries, Philippine Beverage Partners Inc. (Philbev).

The incident has fueled talk that the terms of San Miguel's partnership with Coke might be affected.

San Miguel acquired in 2001 a majority stake in CCBPI, but was hobbled by the beverage firm's weak sales.

Under the agreement with Coca-Cola, San Miguel will take care of operating and distributing the brand, while the American firm will provide advertising support and promotional activities.

Analysts had said that if San Miguel were to continue with its Coke franchise, it may want a better deal on advertising spending, royalties, new products and cost cuts to be competitive.

They added that San Miguel and Coca-Cola should rethink their strategy since market share in the beverage industry had been shrinking due to the entry of new products.

ePLDT clinches SPi acquisition for $135M

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE Co.'s (PLDT) information and communications technology arm, ePLDT, completed its acquisition of business process outsourcing (BPO) giant SPi Technologies Inc. for $135.34 million.

The sale involved an advance payment of $16.43 million to cover parent company SPi Tech L.P.'s loan to DBS Bank Singapore. Also under the deal, ePLDT assumed $7 million of SPi Tech's debts.

The acquisition places PLDT at the forefront of the Philippines' continued growth as a major hub for BPO services. It combines SPi's 6,500 employees and 4,200 seats worldwide with those of ePLDT's Ventus call center group. The resulting firm will have more than 11,000 employees and about 8,300 seats in its BPO/call center operations.

SPi is the world's second-largest pure-play BPO company and the ninth-biggest independent provider in the industry. Its customers include Fortune 100 companies, non-profit organizations and government agencies in the financial services, healthcare, legal and publishing markets.

The BPO giant's main services include content editorial and production, litigation support coding and electronic data discovery, medical transcription, database structuring and management and transaction processing. The BPO company services these customers in 19 locations, including onsite facilities and offices in the Philippines, India, US, Europe, China and Vietnam.

On the other hand, the ePLDT Ventus call center group—consisting of Parlance Systems Inc., Vocativ Systems Inc. and ePLDT Ventus Inc.—operates seven call center facilities in Makati, Taguig, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Quezon City and Iloilo. These offices render primarily voice-based services to large US-based clients and outsourcers. *Riza T. Olchondra*

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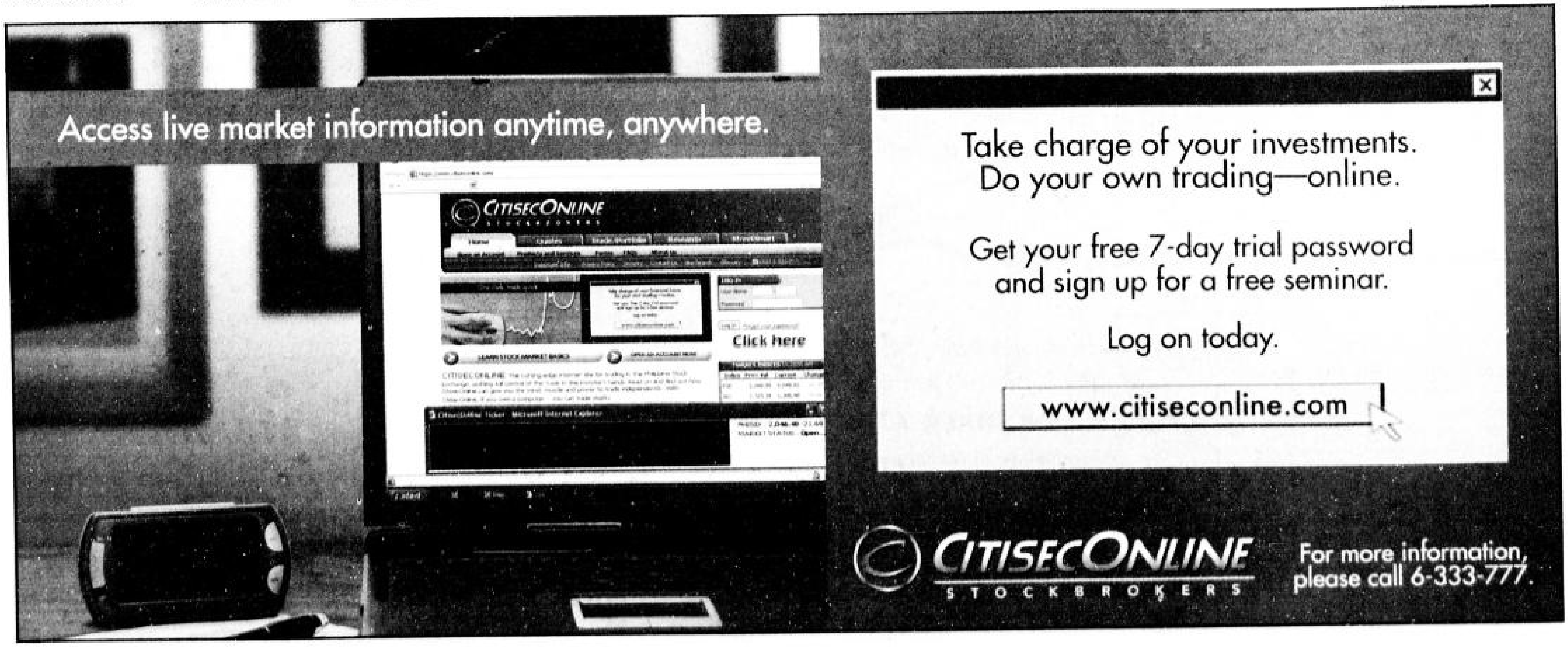

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DIANA PICAZO-RAMOSO

1938 – 2006

Peacefully joined our Creator
at the age of 68.

Her beloved husband **Franco**;
children **Mary Rose Peña**, **Rico**, **Reena Francisco**,
Rebie; children-in-law **Roy**, **Meg**, **Dan**;
grandchildren **Tedi**, **Kokoy**, **Luci**, **Jackie**, **Raco**,
Mico, **Naja**; siblings **Ramon** and **Didi**
request relatives and friends to join them
in their prayers.

Her remains lie at the **Chapel of San Lorenzo,**
Sta. Maria della Strada Parish, Katipunan Ave.,
Quezon City.

Holy Masses will be offered on the following days:
July 12, Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
July 13, Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Interment will be on **Friday, July 14, 2006**
at the FBR Arcade Chapel, 5/F, 317 Katipunan Ave.,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City after the
10:00 a.m. Mass at Chapel of San Lorenzo.

DELGADO RATUNIL UY

A loving and dedicated father passed away in the Grace of Our Lord on Thursday, July 6, 2006 at the age of 72.

Delgado was born on July 10, 1934 in Lugait, Misamis Oriental. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Commerce from the University of the East in 1955.

He was a Past National President of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants and stood among the very few CPAs in the Accountancy Hall of Fame. He was a Past District Governor of Rotary International, District 3870. He also served as the first Regional Director of the Professional Regulation Commission for Region X.

Delgado will be sadly missed but lovingly remembered. His generosity and kind heart were an inspiration to his family and friends. He lived life to the fullest with integrity.

Delgado is survived by his loving wife **Peregrina Barreto Uy**, children **Mariezel** and **Rene Villapando**; **Delgado, Jr.** and **Memie**; **Josephine** and **Oscar Chiu**; **Sheila** and **Dino Pastoriza**; **Magdalena** and **Woodward Villalino**; **Julius**; **Joseph** and **Czarina**; **Feliz Marie**; **Michael** and **Mylene**, his sisters **Loreta Uy-Semaña**; **Concepcion Uy-Santos**, brothers **Peter**; **Benedicto** and **Walter**, in laws **Jimmy Semaña**; **Rosa Macad**; **Maricar Laya** and **Benny Santos**, grandchildren, cousins, nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces.

His remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Iligan City. Funeral Services will be held on **Saturday, July 15, 2006** at the San Roque Parish Church at **8:00 a.m.** and interment will follow at the Lugait Family Mausoleum.

In Loving Memory of

Jose SF. Velasquez, MD, FPCS, FICS

(22 December 1939 - 12 July 2005)

on the 1st Anniversary of his Rebirth to Eternal Life.

Holy Mass will be offered today, 12 July 2006 at:

Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Church
(Gen. Santos City) ..5:45 a.m.

Please remember Jose in your prayers.

May we request all his loved ones,
relatives, friends and pious readers to pray
for the eternal repose of his soul.

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

ROSITA BATA UY

(December 01, 1935 – July 10, 2006)

Founder & Director of:
ALEXANDER'S WEAR International Corporation
TOKYO PACIFIC Industrial Corporation
NAGOYA Industrial Corporation
CYBERTEX Marketing Incorporated

Her husband: **Uy An**;
children: **Robert & Hosanna**;
Evelyn & Edward; **Addison & Judy**;
Alexander & Marlyn; **Napoleon & Eliza**;
grandchildren: **Janice Adeline**, **Sharleen Bernice**,
Mikhail Ronald Robertson, **Michelle Valerie**,
Sherrill Blanca, **(†) Derrick Blade**, **Sharrie Danica**,
Kimberly Mae, **Kathleen Maisie**, **Chloie Lauryn**,
Irvin Sanford, **Daphnie Chenille**,
Edilyn Ruth & Kirk Kennedy; relatives & friends
request the pious readers to pray for the
eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Superior Chapel,
La Funeraria Paz, 143 G. Araneta Avenue
corner Kaliraya Street, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 16, 2006 at
the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque, leaving
La Funeraria Paz at 9 o'clock in the morning.

"May God bless all your kind prayers."

BEATRIZ CO ONG

(May 29, 1931 – July 3, 2006)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 3, 2006
at the age of 75 in Los Angeles, California, (U.S.A.)

Her children: **Alfred** and **Grace**, **Ricardo & Betty**, **Wilson & Lucinda**, **Susan & William**, **Lucy & William**, **Edwin & Rhea**, **Arthur & Bonbon**, and **Michael**, grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on July 17, 2006 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Quezon City at 9:00 o'clock A.M.

In Loving Memory

PEDRO GARCIA SARMIENTO

(05 February 1933 – 10 July 2006)

of Quezon City and Sta. Rita, Pampanga

His loving wife, **Delia Santos**;
children **Didi**, **Dodjie** and **Margie**;
grandchildren **Danica** and **Sabrina**;
relatives and friends request the pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial
Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. Holy Mass
will be offered at 7:30 p.m. daily.

Interment will be on 14 July 2006 at Loyola
Memorial Park, Marikina after the 1 p.m. Mass.

"Come
to Me,
all you
who are
weary
and
burdened,
and
I will
give you
rest."

Matthew 11:28

"...absent with the body to be present with the lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

CPL. JORGE A. TUMAMAO

In peace, grace & fortitude joined our Creator
on July 10, 2006 at the age of 47.

His beloved wife **Elsa A. Tumamao**; children **Georgina**, **Kenneth Frank**, **Ma. Elysa & Noeme Ann**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Airport Police Headquarters in Pasay City.

"Even when I walk through a dark
valley, I feel no harm. For you are
at my side, your rod and staff
give me courage..." Psalm 23:4

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Bldg. 5, Ground Floor Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5388

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Description and PR no.	Approved Budget	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Opening
Printing of 160,000 pieces 2007 PNOC-EDC Wall Calendar under PR- 602922	PHP 4,160,000.00	July 27, 2006	August 17, 2006
Various Cable Trays and Accessories under GN- 516100/519001/519002	PHP 2,099,159.00	July 19, 2006	August 9, 2006
Flowmeter: Non-Invasive Ultrasonic, Portable under PN- 637206 Infrared Imaging Camera under PN-637207 Power Quality Stabilizer under PN- 637213	PHP 419,000.00 for PN- 637206 PHP 1,435,000.00 for PN- 637207 PHP 377,300.00 for PN- 637213	July 19, 2006	August 11, 2006

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Cielo B. de Castro starting July 14, 2006, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on the above date, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Office Wall Clock Time) of the above date. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--July 12 & 19, 2006)

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	Delivery of 3 units Order Picker Equipment per BSP specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract	P4,800,000.00
Delivery Period	Within sixteen (16) weeks after receipt of approved contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bids shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	13 July 2006 to 27 July 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	28 July 2006, 3:00 p.m.
3. Opening of Bids	15 August 2006, 2:00 p.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,400.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI--July 12, 2006)

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BR OF 2230 M. ROXAS ST. STA. ANA, MANILA AUCTION SALE ON JULY 12, 2006, WED. AT 2:30 IN THE AFTERNOON. RESPECTIVELY, FEB. 13 - MAR. 12, 2006. SONS OF J. LANUZA, AUCTIONEER

(PDI--July 12, 2006)

MARA PAWNSHOP

I, II, III, IV AND CONEMBO BR OF MAKATI CITY AUCTION SALE ON JULY 12, 2006, WED AT 10:30, 11:00, 12:30, 1:30 AND 8:30 IN THE MORNING AND ON THE AFTERNOON RESPECTIVELY, FEB. 13 - MAR. 12, 2006. SONS OF J. LANUZA, AUCTIONEER

(PDI--July 12, 2006)

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w/ swimming pool & playground
2 terrace, garage & overlooking view
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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Remedios G. Daba was self adjudicated by heir as Per Doc. No. 190, Page No. 38, Book No. IV, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Cesar R. Santiago of Makati City (7/10/06).

(PDI--July 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

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afp retirement and separation benefits system
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 911-4071 to 80

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

Procurement of Contract for the Construction of the Riviera Residential Estates Underground Electrification and Street Lighting along the Main Road of the complex.

1. The **AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFP-RSBS)**, through the Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the Governing Board intends to apply the sum of **Ninety Four Million Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 94,600,000.00)** Philippine currency, being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) on the **Construction of the Riviera Residential Estates Underground Electrification and Street Lighting along the Main Road of the complex.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The AFP-RSBS now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for Construction of the Riviera Residential Estates Underground Electrification and Street Lighting along the Main Road of the complex. Bidders should possess, a valid **PCAB**, category **'AA'** license in General Buildings, **Inter-Agency License Large A Category** for Electrical Works with actual work experience of the type of contract and cost, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOI's **on or before 5 PM of 26 July 2006 at CMA-C AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Ave. Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City** and secure Eligibility Documents therefrom. The applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements is on **9 August 2006 at 5 PM** at the address given below. The Opening of Eligibility Documents shall be on **10 August 2006 at 2 PM** at the **Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Ave. Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.** Eligibility Documents shall be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of RA 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with IRR-A of RA 9184, a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat of the AFP-RSBS and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address indicated below.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address shown below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php12,500.00)** Philippine currency. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidders or his authorized representative on **17 August 2006.**
6. The AFP-RSBS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **6 September 2006 at 10 AM at the CMA-A AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Ave., Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.**
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address shown below **on or before 18 September 2006 at 9 AM, RSBS Board Room.** All Bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security** in the form of any of the following: cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable commercial bank, which shall be 1% of ABC or **Nine Hundred Forty Six Thousand Pesos (P946,000.00)** Philippine Currency or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **18 September 2006 at 9:05 AM, RSBS Board Room** at the AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Ave. Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
8. The AFP-RSBS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the Bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System
AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Ave.
Camp E. Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 9114071 loc. 266 / 289 / 281

(Sgd.) BGEN. FRANKLIN C. ACOSTA (Ret)
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 12 & 19, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL
MUNICIPALITY OF GITAGUM
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Infrastructure For Rural Productivity Enhancement Sector (InfRES) Project

BIDS & AWARD COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR BID

Date: July 05, 2006
Loan No.: 1772-PHI
Contract No.: SP-10-002-01

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT SECTOR (InfRES) PROJECT and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for Gitagum Farm-to-Market Road (9 Segment). Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank that:
   - (a) are registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to undertake infrastructure projects as a Class 'Medium A' with License Category B contractor or better.
   - (b) have undertaken within the past five (5) years, as the contractor, management contractor, 3 (three) road construction work, projects valued at least Php 23,000,000 Pesos each for single 'Medium A contractor, (and for a joint venture)
2. The Local Government Unit of Gitagum ('the Employer') invites sealed bids from bidders with the above qualifications for the Upgrading of 9-segments Farm to Market Roads, 16.26 kms. total length. The works includes supply, placing and compaction of Sub-Aggregate Base Course and Aggregates Base Course, Grouted Riprap Canal, Slope Protection, Double-Barrel RC Box Culvert, RCPC, PCCP, or until such completion of the works. The Contract Period is twelve months (365 calendar days)
3. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, at the office of the Employer, at

Office of the Municipal Mayor
InfRES Local Project Office
Municipality of Gitagum
Province Misamis Oriental
Region X

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php Ten Thousand (Pesos 10,000.00).
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Security of 2% of the total Bid Price or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the above address on or before 10:00 A.M. on September 04, 2006. Bids will be opened at 1:00 P.M. on the same date as above, in the presence of bidders' representative who choose to attend. The pre-bid conference will be held on August 23, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the Municipal Hall Building.
6. The Employer reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnify to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ENGR. WALTER U. ORCERADA
BAC Chairman

(PDI--July 12 & 19, 2006)

NFA Central office moves to Phil Sugar Center building

THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL FOOD Authority is now housed at the Philippine Sugar Center building located at North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Since the first week of June, various departments of the central office have started transferring to the Philippine Sugar Center building. Full transfer of the entire central office is expected to be completed by August 1.

The NFA's current location is within the vicinity of other government offices, including those attached to the Department of Agriculture. The NFA is also attached to the DA.

The NFA has rented a private building along E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue for the past 26 years. With its transfer to a government building, the food agency is expected to save on rental fees. With its proximity to its motorpool in Visayas Avenue, the NFA is also expected to generate savings on fuel costs, vehicle maintenance and man-hours.

The public may reach the NFA through the following new contact numbers: 928-1634 & 926-6443, administrator's office (AO): 426-5063, office of the deputy administrator for operations (ODAO); 920-8564, office of the deputy administrator for finance and administration (ODAFA); 920-7692, office of the assistant administrator for industry development (OAAID); 426-6932, office of the assistant administrator for finance (OAAF).

The other telephone numbers are 454-4419, office of the NFA Council; 927-4862, office of the director for general services (GSD-DO); 920-8069, purchasing; 927-9787, enforcement, investigation and prosecution department (EIPD); 920-2794, directorate for treasury, budget and fund management (DTBFM); and 927-7189, radio communication (Radiocom-GSD).

For more information on the NFA building, relocation, the public may send their concerns via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

OBITUARIES

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

PILAR R. SORIANO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 11, 2006 at the age of 83.

Her loving husband **PABLO**; children **Eduardo, Jaime, Susan, Roberto, Erlinda, Manuel, Cristina, George, Margarita, Mary Ann and John**; in-laws, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Resurreccion Chapel-Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Mahinhin St., UP-Diliman, Q.C.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 15, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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❷ Any identification docum[illegible]
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ATTY. ARSENIO M. CABRERA

of Taal, Batangas

Peacefully joined our Lord
on July 9, 2006 at the age of 86.

He is survived by his loving wife **Aurora**; his children **Nina** and **Sito Muñoz**, **Arthur** and **Cynthia**, **Agnes**, **Annamari**, **Che** and **Lynn**, **Alice**, and **Dada** and **Glenn Agbayani**; his grandchildren **Lee**, **Cristina**, **Nicolo**, **Carlo**, **Allan**, **Paolo**, **John**, **Jacob**, **Christopher**, **Julia**, and **Luigi**; brother and sisters-in-law **Alfredo** and **Paula Cabrera**, **Rosario Cabrera**, **Virginia Ramos**, and **Teresita Coronel**; nephews, nieces and other relatives who request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be brought to his residence on C. Ilagan St., Taal, Batangas after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass on Friday, the 14th of July 2006.

Interment will be at the Taal Catholic Cemetery on Saturday, the 15th of July 2006 after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass at San Martin de Tours Basilica, Taal, Batangas.

Meralco denies hand in Masinloc supply deal

Banks may soon engage in SBL

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS IS set to allow banks to trade securities they don't own without being burdened with a reserve requirement on such transactions—a practice known around the world as securities borrowing and lending (SBL).

BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. told reporters the banking regulator would complement the Securities and Exchange Commission's recent promulgation of regulations on SBL, which allows market players to make two-way quotes (buy or sell) to maximize opportunities during a bearish market.

Once they get to borrow or lend securities among themselves, banks will be in a position to better employ investment strategies like short-selling—or selling securities they have yet to buy—arbitraging, or taking advantage of rate differentials and hedging risks.

Espenilla said the SBL rule issued by the SEC would not only apply to stocks trading, but also to the domestic bond market. He said the forthcoming BSP circular would exempt banks' SBL transactions from the reserve requirement to encourage these activities.

"This is part of the reforms to create liquidity in the market," Espenilla said. "It helps in deepening liquidity because a dealer ought to make two-way quotes. But it's very hard for a dealer or a market-maker to have firm offer rates if the offer is hit and he doesn't have the security.

"With SBL, the dealer can borrow the securities so it makes the market more efficient and reliable. That's why the BSP is very supportive of SBL."

Power firm says it won't compromise consumers' interests

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOPEZ-LED MANILA ELECTRIC Co. yesterday denied allegations that it was in an "alliance" with the government to seal a supply deal with YNN Pacific Consortium Inc., the winning bidder for the 600-megawatt (MW) Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales.

According to militant groups, the government, in an effort to salvage the Masinloc transaction, was allegedly negotiating a deal with Meralco that would entail a power supply contract between YNN and the distribution utility.

In exchange, Meralco would receive several concessions, including the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of its pending 14.76 centavos-per-kilowatt-hour rate hike petition, and the favorable settlement of its dispute with the National Power Corp. over a 10-year supply deal that lapsed in 2004.

Quoting his sources, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said that during President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent trip to Spain, she and Meralco chair Manuel Lopez met with officials of Meralco shareholder Union Fenosa to convince them to allow the power distributor to enter into a supply deal with YNN.

The Spanish conglomerate allegedly opposed the deal, Reyes said.

But Meralco vice president for corporate communication Elpi Cuna denied there was such an agreement between Lopez and the government.

"We would like to make it clear that whatever decision Meralco comes up with is a collective decision of the board of directors, and not of Mr. Lopez alone," Cuna said in a statement yesterday. "We would like to assure all concerned parties that Meralco will definitely not compromise the interest of its customers.

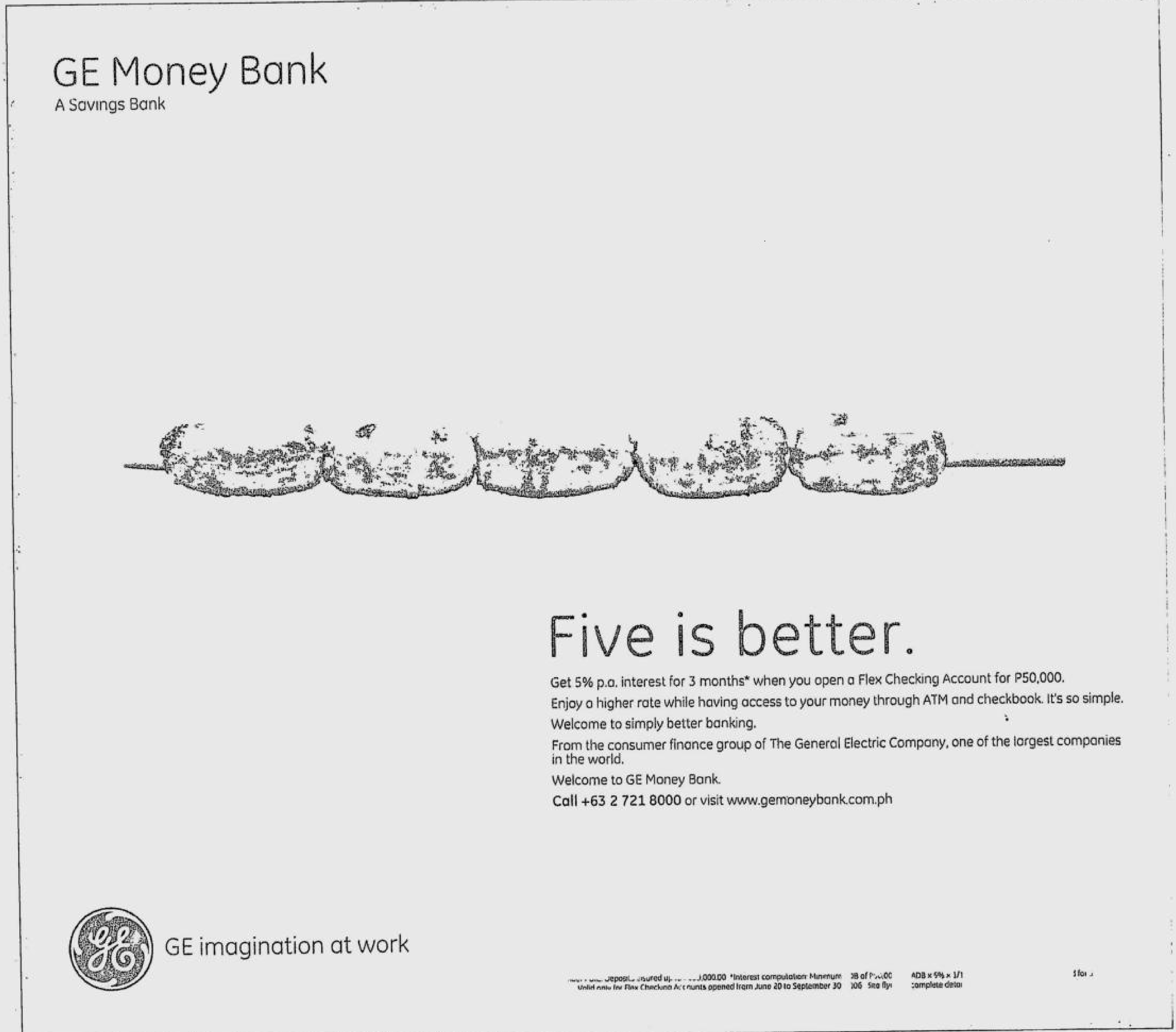
"As a corporate entity, we see no fault in doing whatever we can, within legal means, to help the government, the electric power industry and our customers to realize a lower electricity cost."

Malaysian conglomerate Ranhill Berhad, YNN's new financier, agreed to buy out its YNN partners for $8 million, as well as assume the payment of the $227-million down payment for the Masinloc plant.

But for the Masinloc deal to push through, Ranhill required that a supply deal with Meralco be hammered out.

The deal was never finalized, prompting the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. to forfeit the $14-million performance bond YNN had put up for the plant.

YNN still has up to Aug. 6 to remit the down payment and keep the deal alive. The bond, however, will remain forfeited.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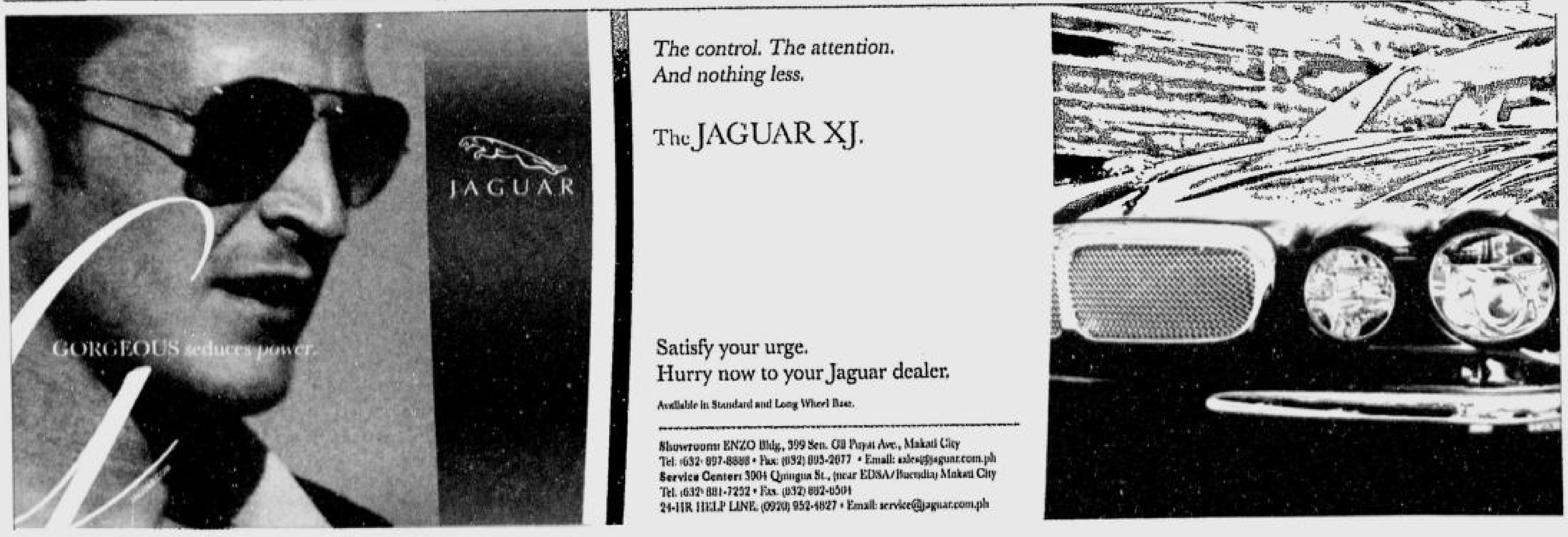
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MOTORING

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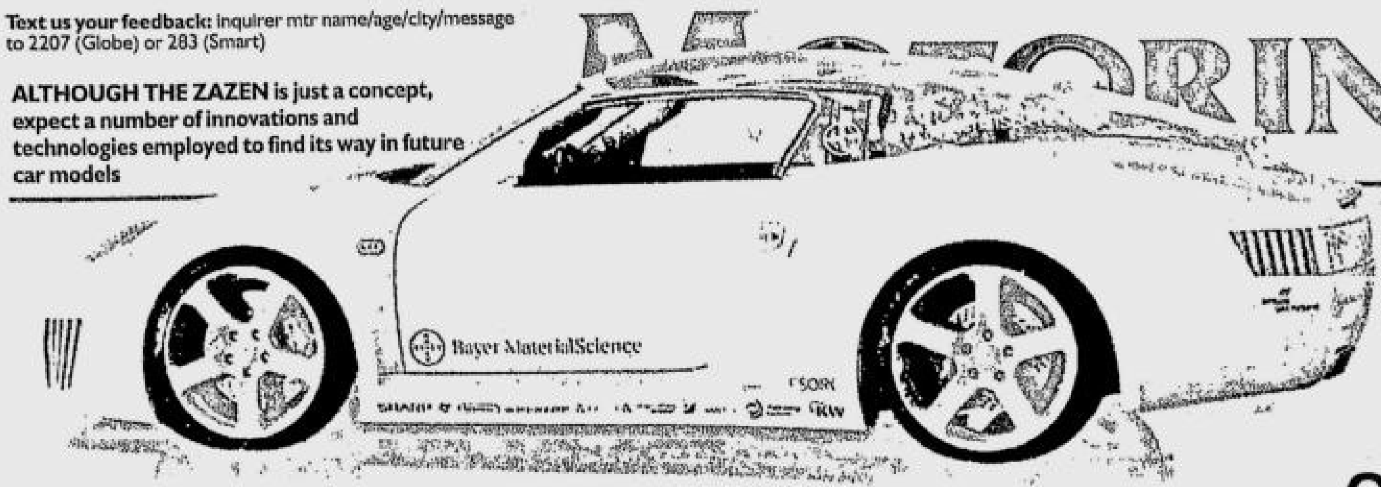
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



ALTHOUGH THE ZAZEN is just a concept, expect a number of innovations and technologies employed to find its way in future car models

Makrolon is 200 times stronger than glass and provides 250 times the impact strength of glass

FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN AUTOMOTIVES

High-tech plastic in cars

JUST LIKE glass but much better: The Makrolon polycarbonate is a designer's dream come true.

By Charles E. Buban

THIS YEAR'S GENEva International Motor Show in Switzerland debuts a rather fascinating concept car called zaZen, a Porsche Carrera-based coupé developed by Swiss automotive design specialist, Rinspeed.

What makes zaZen interesting is not just its name (which literally means seated meditation) or its powerful specs (a 360 horsepower, 3.9-liter engine that catapults the two-seater from zero to 100 kph in just 4.8 seconds) but also the high-tech plastic material used extensively in the car.

If this is the automobile of the future, then we would soon be driving cars made mostly of plastic, that is, a very advanced form of plastic called Makrolon polycarbonate.

"Makrolon is one of the most versatile and dynamic materials ever developed. With its high-impact strength, light weight, flexibility, shatter resistance and its ability to be formed and made either transparent or opaque, Makrolon makes a better and safer substitute for glass," described Dorothy Claro,

HIGH-TECH/ B2-3

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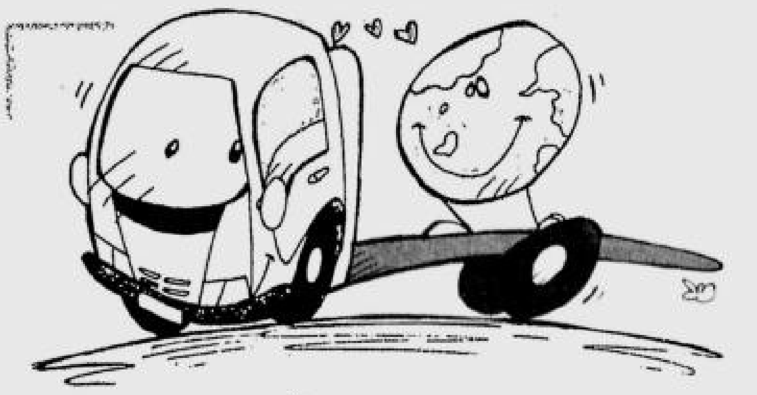
Gov't ally; Isuzu hybrid



FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

IN JUST 12 YEARS OR SO YEARS OR so, Petron has remitted a whopping total of P6 billion to PNOC (Philippine National Oil Co.). What a feat! That's an average of P500 million a year since Petron was privatized in 1994. Statistics now show that Petron is one of the strongest financial allies of the cash-strapped government.

Only days ago, Petron, the runaway leader in the oil business and chaired by Nicasio Alcantara, gave a dividend payout of P375 million to PNOC.

Just last year alone, Petron had a net income of P6.04 billion, its best showing in 10 years.

Industry experts attributed the windfalls largely to Petron's various operational improvements and healthy exports opuses.

The PNOC has a 40 percent stake in Petron, the same stake that Saudi Aramco owns in the oil firm. The remaining 20 percent is owned by the public.

* * *

I had raised here the issue a while back about Petron's claim of being more fuel efficient than its rivals.

Specifically, I refer to that TV ad featuring the legendary motor sports racer Pocholo Ramirez and his son driving the Honda Jazz from Pagudpud up North to Bicol down South. The ad showed the Ramirezes consume less gas driving the Petron-fueled Jazz.

The piece drew reactions from some quarters in the industry, including hostile howls bordering on accusations of "untruth in advertising." They went a step farther by asking advertising guardians to have the TV ad pulled out from the airwaves.

They were unsuccessful though as Petron, in no time, proved the truthfulness of its claim.

Today we see the Petron TV ad being run regularly, particularly in major sporting events like the recent World Cup of football, not to mention PBA games.

Indeed when you are up there, they throw all kinds of mud at you. You just have to bear and grin it.

The price of being No. 1.

* * *

If you think it's only in the Philippines that car sales are down, think again.

The United States also suffers from declining car sales.

Last month alone, car sales in the world's most powerful country dropped 10.5 percent.

Among the world's giant automakers, only Toyota was the one bright spot, continuing its string of monthly sales increases with a 14.4 percent from last year's performance.

General Motors, the industry world leader, plunged 2.5 percent from its record June 2005 even as US-based automakers saw their collective sales drop 18.7 percent in June.

John O'Dell of the Los Angeles Times said the sharp drop happened because "many motorists apparently remained wary of continued high gasoline prices and waited for a new round of steep discounting."

If you still don't know it, the US is also the bargain bazaar, if not the "sale capital," of the world.

GM, in a bid to rebound from its terrible backslide in 2005 resulting in a $10.6-billion loss fueled by falling sales, is seriously considering shacking up with Renault and Nissan. This global alliance could result in production of more than 15 million vehicles a year, or about a quarter of all new cars and trucks sold worldwide.

If that should happen, the face of motoring business will never be the same again.

* * *

Here's good news from Isuzu.

The No. 1 diesel engine company in the world is also now into hybrid, that wondrous vehicle technology designed for environment conservation and reducing too-much dependence on fossil fuel.

The famous Isuzu Elf truck is now hybrid-powered. Although it is currently only available in Japan, hopefully, it would soon be brought here by Isuzu Philippines Corp. through its president and CEO, Yoshifumi Komura.

I feel like every truck-dependent businessman is dying to own one, Komura-san.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Check that wiper. It can save your life on a rainy night.

* * *

E-mail comments to menju@pldtdsl.net.

5 Best Driving Roads, Summer 2006

(Last of two parts)

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

DRIVING UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS IS A vacation ritual I remember from the earliest years of my youth. Sure, school was out, something to enthusiastically celebrate in itself but my true joy came from these road trips into the clouds.

These long drives were welcomed with equal amounts of excitement and wonder, knowing that everything on the other end of half a day's travel would be crisp, perfumed by pine and cooler than the cloying cauldron of heat that is Manila at the mercy of the summer's sun. Everything just promised to be different, I guess, once the road began to climb upward and out of view.

Learning experience

Peering out of the windows as a child while a car ascends a zigzag is a learning experience of sorts. One begins to see marked changes as you gain elevation: the slate and charcoal of the boulders, the deep and vibrant greens of the moss covering almost everything, and the occasional waterfall patiently cutting through stone.

Your body also marks the march of said elevation; your eardrums feel like they want to explode, excited breathing becomes a little more labored and the cooling of one's sweat actually becomes a pleasant experience. I could not wait for these signs to manifest themselves, as I knew that meant the destination could soon just be over the next crest or possibly around the next switchback.

Later on in life, I would begin to do the driving myself; still excited because of all the memories that have come with traveling up mountains but more now because I now appreciate actually negotiating the mountain roads as much as arriving at the destination. It is logical therefore that the two best driving roads of the past summer involve ascents to altitude and the inevitable tango and tussle with twisty tarmac that come with such classic climbs.

Ford event

The very first long road trip of this past working summer was a Ford event that brought me to Banawe, Ifugao for the first time. The approach to the tight, tangled route that leads to the sleepy mountain town and its fabled rice terraces begins with slight rises and turns through tree-lined, two-lane concrete roads. These open up into a paved section straddling a small canyon with impressive white stone cliffs dominating the scenery. Stop along this wide section of road and take in the views, while the rest of the drive to Banawe is also quite picturesque, it would be best to concentrate on the road if any real fun is to be had.

Once across the canyon, via a narrow steel bridge, the driving begins in earnest. It is probably just my imagination, but it seems that the corners get deeper and the straights become shorter as one approaches the destination. Road surfaces are not the most immaculate, with a lot of gravel, mud and loam peppering the way, but this only adds to the excitement. Remember to back off once signs of civilization begin to crop up on the roadside, not just for safety's sake, but do so as the terraces come into view soon after the town begins. Be patient with the local traffic in and around the area; overloaded jeepneys are commonplace and struggle with the steepness of some sections.

Kennon uphill

The best driving road accolade therefore goes to a well-known but oft-misunderstood climb: the Kennon Uphill. I'm sure many have written off this gem of coiled tarmac as both too congested and too dangerous. Sure, there are times that this old approach to Baguio resembles a long procession in honor of the gods of patience and tolerance. There are also times when the inevitable landslide and errant bus become lethal in nature. Fine, the road is not perfect but there are instances where one can find himself/herself practically alone on this beautifully technical piece of

5 BEST/B2-3

CARLOS Palad, public affairs officer of Chemrez, loads bio-diesel additives to Nestlé vehicle during a vehicle free emission testing.

BOSCH emission technicians view the results of a Nestlé supplier vehicle whose emission level was tested.

Jumpstarting the good life: clean engines, clean fuel for clean air

FOR NESTLÉ PHILIPPINES INC., "THE GOOD Life" means more than just good nutrition. It is an institutional platform for social responsibility, not just among its employees, but also among its suppliers and other partners. Through its social responsibility initiatives, Nestlé hopes to be able to promote a good life for every Filipino and for everyone whose lives they are able to touch.

This mission was the guidepost when Nestlé embarked on a joint activity with the Energy and Clean Air Project (Ecap) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Robert Bosch Inc. (Philippines) and Chemrez Inc. Called "Jumpstarting the good life: clean engines and clean fuel for clean air," the activity was held recently at Nestlé's Ice Cream & Chilled Dairy Division on Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City.

Forum

The activity featured a forum where problems confronting the country's air quality were shared by Carmelita M. Passe of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Josephine Mangila, Communications Specialist of Ecap. Also present as resource persons were Jess G. Reyes and Val Q. Dizon of Nestlé, Carlos Antonio Palad of Chemrez Inc. who discussed the economic and environmental impacts of using alternative fuels, particularly biodiesel, and Marte Rivera of Robert Bosch Inc, who discussed proper vehicle maintenance.

As a joint initiative, the activity underscored the importance of generating multisectoral support in efforts to address the issues of air quality management. The forum also discussed the importance of proper vehicle maintenance and use of alternative fuels for cleaner air among the factory's fleet drivers and employees.

Emission tests

A key feature of the activity involved the conduct of a free and voluntary emission testing among the service fleet of Nestlé, including its suppliers and employees. Day-long emissions tests were conducted via a Bosch BEA350 and RTM430 Opacimeter diesel and Gas analyzer, capable of detecting carbon levels and toxicity in vehicle emissions. A biodiesel demonstration was also conducted by Chemrez, which provided 36 liters of biodiesel additive samples.

"This joint initiative, which coincided with the Environment Month, is in line with Nestlé's thrust to bring The Good Life among Filipinos," said Jess Reyes, Nestlé head for safety, health and environment. "We are honored to cooperate with socially responsible private corporations such as Chemrez and Bosch. Nestlé views this as the beginning of a deeper, more significant cooperation with Ecap and its partners, toward a successful advocacy for sustainable energy and cleaner air. This activity is one among the numerous activities Nestlé is undertaking as part of the institution's long-running "Greening the Supply Chain" outreach and education program.

Environment month

The participation of Robert Bosch Inc. and Chemrez, which have been participating in numerous Ecap activities to promote clean air, is a fine example of an inter-corporate initiative that seeks to address a major issue facing the country today. In recognizing this effort, Mangila of Ecap said, "The private sector enjoys the distinct advantage of serving as industry examples in promoting the nationwide campaign for sustainable energy and clean air. Ecap lauds the efforts of Nestlé, Bosch and Chemrez as a fine example of meaningful private sector cooperation in promoting cleaner air for present and future generations of Filipinos. This initiative is clearly not only an agenda for corporate citizenship, but also a social investment.

NESTLÉ employees attend a forum that promotes the importance of proper vehicle maintenance and use of alternative fuels for cleaner air.

MOTORSCOPE

Solutions for the energy crisis

TRANSPORT 2006: MOTORTRENDS AND FILIPINO INVENTIONS has "solutions for the energy crisis" as its working theme, and is slated from July 21 to 23 at the Central Plaza, Market! Market! Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila.

It will showcase the finest and most distinct cars in the industry, cars with great style and practical sense. Check out an alternative to LPG-fed stoves and other fuel saving devices by Filipino inventors. Raffle prizes to be won are Khaos Super Turbo Chargers, car accessories and hotel accommodations. There will be seminars and forums on alternative fuels as well as test drives and car-care tips.

The event is supported by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (Sustainable Energy Development Program), United States Department of Energy, Technology Application and Promotion Institute, Department of Science and Technology, and Department of Energy, Hotwire TV and Magazine, 97.1 dwLS FM, Magic 89.9 dwTM.

4 vehicles at stake in Toyota promo

TOYOTA CELEBRATES ITS LEADERSHIP POSITION FOR THE FIRST semester of 2006 via Toyota Value Certificates (TVCs), lowest down payment of 10 percent and a grand customer raffle promo with four vehicles at stake.

TVCs are certificates with a specific amount given to customers who purchase the Innova, Altis and Vios. They can be used for accessories, chattel mortgage, LTO registration, or cash discount. The Innova is being offered at P763,000 for the low-end J variant and at P1,064,000 for the high-end G variant. For all variants of the Innova, a total TVC worth P30,000 is given. The Altis G, E and J variants have suggested retail price (SRP) ranging from P723,000 to P990,000. With Toyota's July promo, customers can get up to P40,000 worth of TVCs. The sporty Altis (S), on the other hand, has a TVC value of P60,000.

The 2006 Department of Energy (DOE)'s most fuel-efficient car Vios (G and E) variants are priced from P615,000 to P722,000. The Vios G TVC amounts to P25,000 while E variant is offered at P20,000 TVC.

RP car touring champ aspirant

JEFF BORJA OF BOSCH-DARKSIDE RACING, AFTER PREVIOUSLY qualifying only seventh on the 11-car grid, finished third and fourth respectively in races three and four.

This was during the second round of the Philippine Touring Car Championship(PTCC) Group 3, C division.

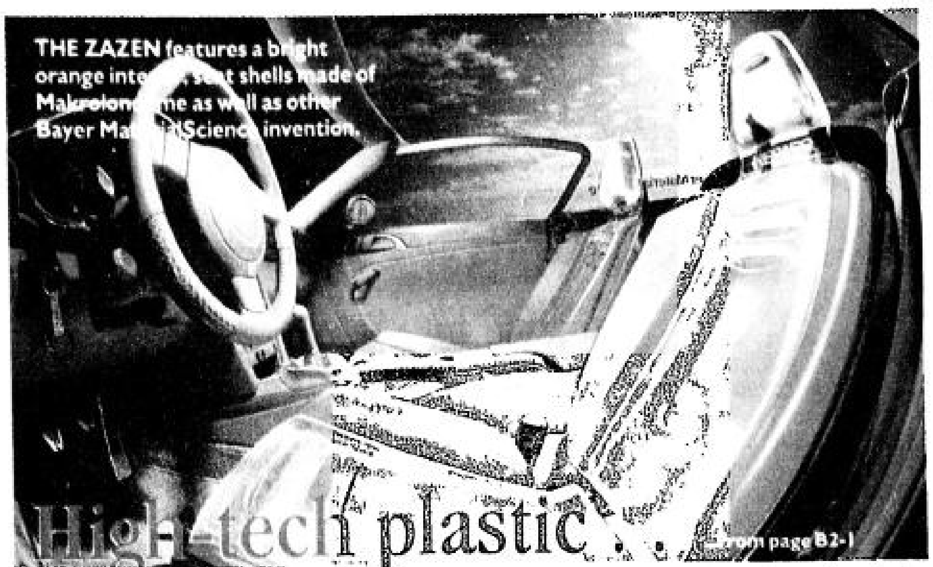
He earned 18 points for a total of 38 points. That puts him in third, and behind the velocity team's two drivers.

The race was marred by a heavy two-car collision during the first lap. It was during this time that race marshals ordered a restart and Borja worked his way up to finish on the podium before the checkered flag.

Jeff is being supported by Bosch Good Year Racing, Castrol, H&R Springs, A-Toy Body Kits, Nodalo's; Puma, Kicker Audio, PIE IPod adapter, Silverwind Wheels, Spyder Eyewear, Aquachill, Victoria Court, Uno Magazine and Tech & Tuner Magazine.

NISSAN SUPPORTS TYSON SY

Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. formalized its support for the "Prince of Philippine racing" Tyson Sy (3rd from left), during contract signing ceremonies held in Alabang. Tyson, who now is the ambassador of NMPI, currently leads the driver's championship standings in the Asian Formula 3 cup. From left are NMPI AVP for Marketing and Sales Dennis Chang, NMPI president Leman Lee and NMPI senior manager for Market and Product Planning Raymond Tribdino.



THE ZAZEN features a bright orange interior, seat shells made of Makrolon, one as well as other Bayer MaterialScience invention.

High-tech plastic . . .

From page B2-1

Bayer (South East Asia) corporate communications head.

Germany-based Bayer Group owns the company Bayer MaterialScience, which in cooperation with Rinspeed produced the concept vehicle.

Largest producer

Bayer MaterialScience is the world's largest producer of Makrolon.

Bayer invented the polycarbonate in 1953 and has continued to work with its customers to develop many innovative applications from automotive headlamp lens, CDs and DVDs, medical devices and shatter-resistant optical lenses to name just a few.

Indeed, Makrolon is a designer's dream come true and for Frank Rinderknecht, who gave zaZen its unique form, it would have been difficult if not impossible had they used glass.

The zaZen features a smoothly contoured, transparent, one-piece roof dome made of high-tech Makrolon. The teardrop-shaped dome runs down to the car's belt line.

"Makrolon is half the weight of glass. This gives zaZen a much lower center of gravity and thus, less prone to rollovers," explained Claro.

Moreover, Makrolon is 200 times stronger than glass and provides 250 times the impact strength of glass.

Technical revolution

The zaZen also embraces a technical revolution in car manufacture with the transparent back light being turned into a luminous holographic area.

Implanted at the rear of the massive dome is a holographic third brake light that completely vanishes when not illuminated.

Moreover, the teardrop-shaped roof also incorporated electroluminescent technology for interior ambience lighting. The new technology, called Exatec 900el, allows drivers and passengers to adjust the brightness of interior lighting to suit their individual needs.

"With the zaZen, Rinspeed and Bayer MaterialScience have explored a new route in automobile development. Although the zaZen is just a concept, I expect that a number of innovations and technologies used in the car will find its way in future car models," hoped Claro.

Five . . .

From page B2

public highway.

Being blessed with such an experience is an epiphany of sorts, especially for those of us who like to drive. The beauty of Kennon is in its variety. There are times that the road itself is made just to frustrate drivers; being unable to prepare for the next turn will definitely take the flow out of any attempted ascent. Yet, just as one wants to give up and crawl—dejected to the top—the way opens up, giving the driver a clear view of the next two corners and a very good hint of a third—allowing one to pile on the momentum and clean a section at speed. Link up any number of these rhythm sections together and the road's true value becomes clear; the result is pure driving bliss. Anything that brings this much pleasure, is truly a good thing.

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CR-V 2WD 5P MT	P999,000	P149,850	P19,480	P499,500	P11,366

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Shock in the auto industry

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

A SHOCK WAVE STUNNED THE global automobile industry early this month when the international media reported a proposal for General Motors to join the alliance of Nissan Motor Co. and Renault SA. by allowing the two to acquire 20 percent of its equity. The deal, broached by GM's largest individual shareholder, Kirk Kerkorian, would create an auto giant producing 15 million motor vehicles a year, about a quarter of the global market and almost twice the eight million output of Toyota Motor Corp., the world's No. 2 automaker which is expected to overtake GM as No. 1 any time soon.

Kerkorian believes that the proposed alliance would save GM, Renault and Nissan billions of dollars by sharing engineering, purchasing and manufacturing costs for engines and the basic components and vehicle platforms of automobiles.

Top honchos

Aside from the substantial synergies and cost savings projected, Kerkorian's gambit focuses attention on the top honchos of the companies concerned. Carlos Ghosn, a Frenchman who was born in Brazil of Lebanese parents, is 52 while Rick Wagoner, chair and CEO of General Motors, is 53. After acquiring a 44 percent stake in Nissan in 1999, Renault sent Ghosn to run Nissan while Wagoner became CEO of GM a year later. But the similarities end there.

PHOTOILLUSTRATIONS BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

At the time Ghosn took over Nissan, it was nearly bankrupt and saddled with US$20 billion in debt. In fact, Robert Lutz, former vice chair of Chrysler who, ironically enough, later became vice chair of GM, predicted that anyone who bought Nissan might as well load billions of dollars in gold bullion on board a ship and sink it in the ocean.

Ghosn defied Lutz's prediction. He slashed costs by closing assembly plants and firing thousands of employees (thus ending the lifetime employment tradition in Japan), sold off noncore businesses, dissolved the keiretsu corporate welfare system of Nissan's interlocking network of suppliers and affiliates, persuaded parts makers to help reduce Nissan's purchasing costs by 20 percent and used the savings and proceeds from the sale of companies to reduce the massive debt. He restored morale, set financial targets and vowed to resign if he failed to meet them.

Met goals

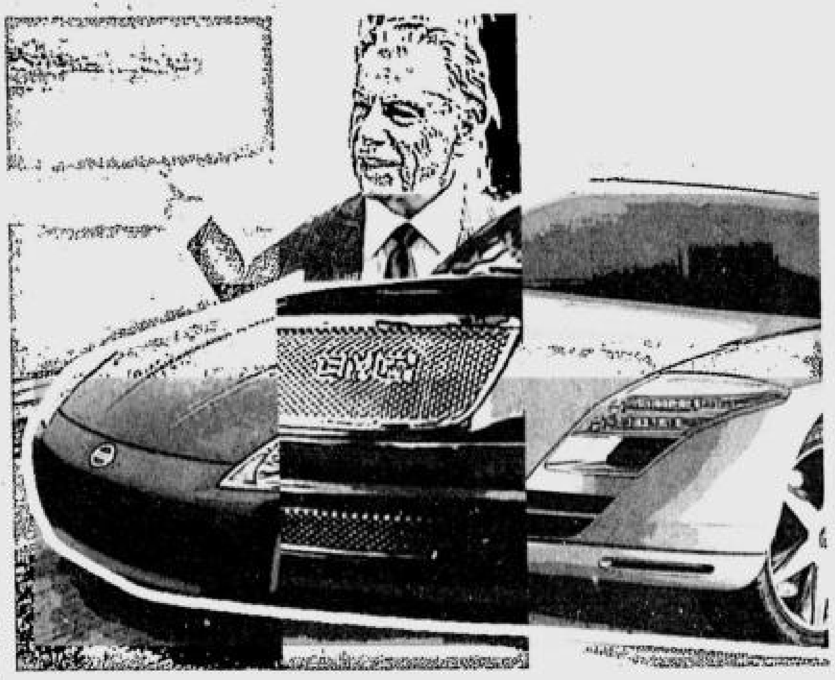
Ghosn met his goals, taking Nissan from a $5.6 billion loss in 2000 to a $2.7 billion profit in 2001. A lean, refocused Nissan revamped its product line and successfully launched new, boldly styled vehicles like the Murano SUV and Infiniti G35 sports car. Sales and profits soared and by 2005, Nissan was one of the most profitable companies in the industry with its share price tripling. And although as the first non-Japanese to head Nissan he broke the mold and blew up time-honored taboos, Ghosn became a folk hero and the subject of a series of manga comic books in Japan. With his success in Tokyo, Ghosn was promoted to CEO of Renault in Paris last year although he remains in charge of Nissan.

Rick Wagoner, on the other hand, is more of a conservative team player than an iconoclast or icon of radical change. He has worked for GM since 1977 and in 1999, the year before he took over, GM earned a record $5.7 billion. In June 2000, when he became CEO, GM's stock was nearly $70 a share.

$10.6-B loss

But it's all been downhill for GM since then. GM had the capacity to produce more cars than it could sell. Burdened with the highest health, pension and labor costs in the industry and steadily losing market share to foreign competitors with more fuel-efficient cars amid soaring oil prices, GM posted a $10.6-billion loss last year and by December 2005 its stock had plunged below $19 a share, a drop of more than 70 percent.

Wagoner is implementing a turnaround plan anchored on the closure of 12 plants by 2008, the elimination of 30,000 jobs in the United States, a deal with the United Auto Workers union to have retirees pay a bigger share of their health care costs and the reorganization of GM's global product development and purchasing structure. The news last month that 35,000 GM workers have accepted the early retirement and buyout packages means that GM has reached its goal of trimming jobs two years ahead of schedule. This, plus the proposed alliance with Nissan-Renault, boosted GM stock to more than $29 a share.



In the first quarter this year, GM reported a modest profit but it was due to an accounting change and cash flow remained negative. GM's debt ratings remain in "deep junk" territory. Despite these, Wagoner won a public vote of confidence from GM's board and expressions of support from the company's dealers last April.

Revolutionary approach

However, the vote of confidence was not unanimous. Jerome York, Kerkorian's representative on the board, said that GM needs Ghosn's leadership style and personality more than Wagoner's measured steps to preserve as much of the status quo as possible while moving the business back into the black. Kerkorian wants a revolutionary, high risk/high reward approach, not Wagoner's incremental, low risk/low reward approach. At 89, the billionaire who paid $1.6 billion or $30 a share for his 9.9 percent stake in GM hopes to look back on his investment as successful in a year or two—not 10 years.

There are many arguments for and against a GM-Renault-Nissan alliance that would reshape the global auto industry. But in the last analysis, it may all boil down to whether the differences in management style, corporate culture and personality of Carlos Ghosn and Rick Wagoner can be meshed successfully—if Ghosn doesn't take over Wagoner's job. That is what makes the proposed mega-merger so engrossing. *(With reports from International Herald Tribune, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal Asia, Bloomberg News, Associated Press and The Los Angeles Times)*

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LIFESTYLE

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Campus color-coding

Go beyond smearing red (or green, blue, or yellow) stripes on your cheeks

Text by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Sara Black and Ocs Alvarez

LOOKING FOR A NEW WAY to pledge allegiance to your school during UAAP pep rallies and games?

Instead of the usual color-coded shirts, foam fingers and flags, wear your school colors on your face—with real makeup, not skin-damaging paint that should be kept strictly in art class (many of these paints contain toxic ingredients, and are often hard to remove—you wouldn't want to use paint thinner on your face, would you?)

Go beyond smearing red (or green, blue, or yellow) stripes on your cheeks. Make your school-themed makeup a little more avant-garde by blending colorful eye shadows on your lids, cheekbones, and undereye area.

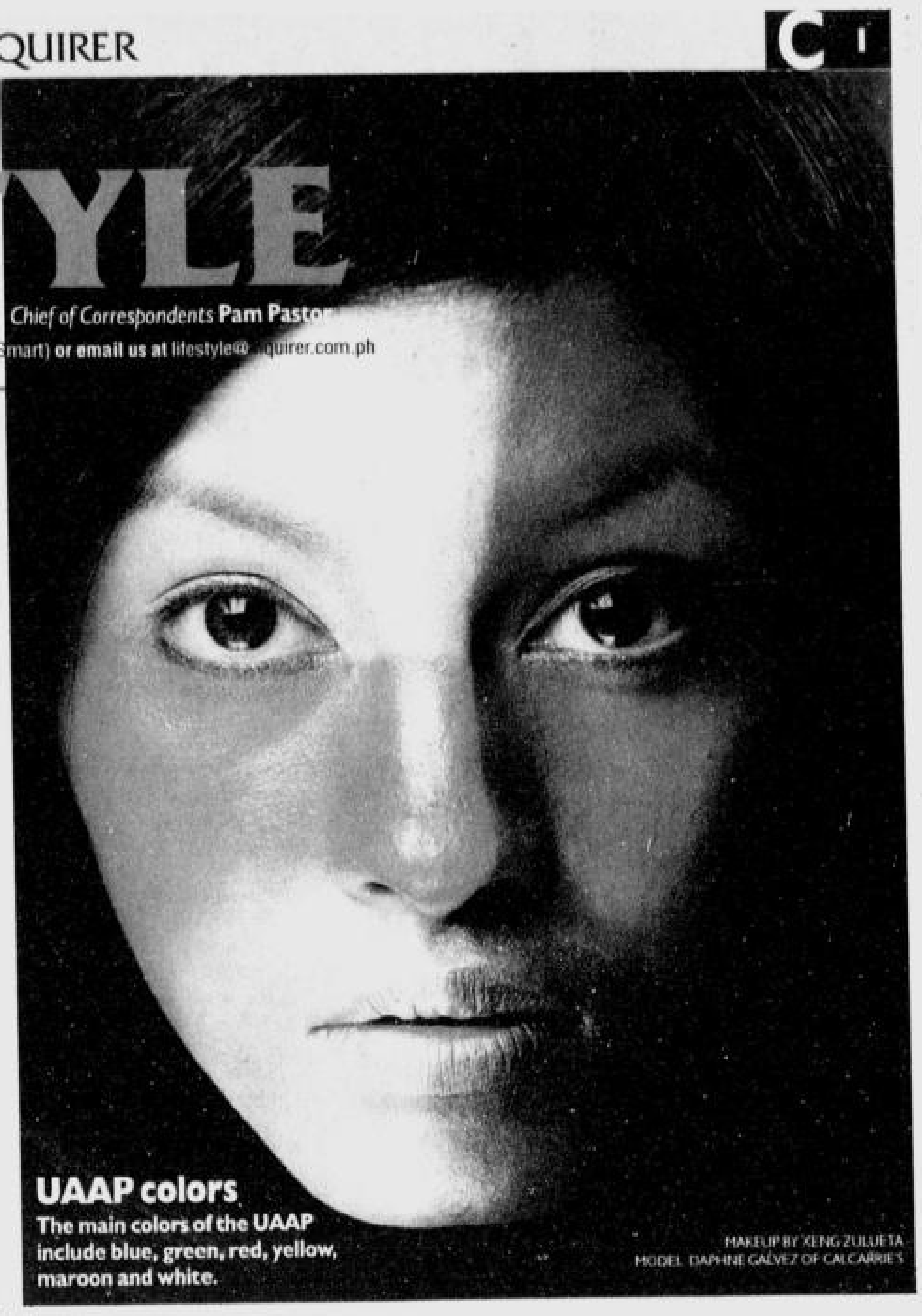
Try a pair of colored false lashes, or draw the school mascot on your back with a bit of liquid liner. Always try to use hypoallergenic makeup, so the pigment won't mix with your sweat and irritate your skin, which could lead to breakouts. As UAAP games are usually held in crowded stadiums, the combination of sweat and acne-causing makeup could only spell future headaches for your skin.

So go out and root for your favorite teams—and remember, men's basketball isn't the only UAAP sport, so support your school's female athletes and lesser-known sports as well.

Unfortunately, due to yet another athletic scandal, the De La Salle University is not included in this year's UAAP lineup. However, true-blue La Sallites might want to show support for their school and their athletes (especially those who had nothing to do with the cheating) by wearing their school colors. The teams will definitely appreciate it.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji @yahoo.com

CAMPUS/ C2



UAAP colors
The main colors of the UAAP include blue, green, red, yellow, maroon and white.

MAKEUP BY XENG ZULUETA
MODEL DAPHNE GALVEZ OF CALCARRIE'S

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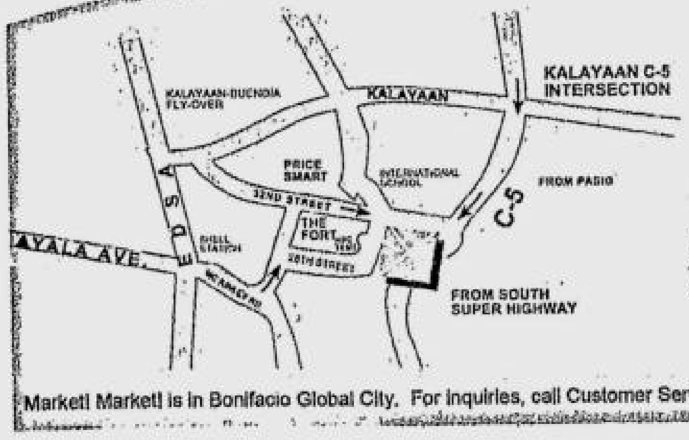

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Campus color-coding

Adamson University

MAKEUP: CLAIRE DIOKNO OF SHU UEMURA
HAIR: RICKY DIOKNO USING KIEHL'S STYLIST SERIES
MODEL: MAAN ZULAYBAR

Pep-rally pretty: Claire created falcon-like eyes by using various shades of blue to contour Maan's eyes. She finished off with pink blush, just-bitten pink lips, and a pair of blue lashes on the lower eye area.

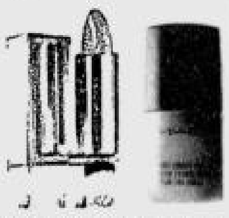
Make this wearable: Blue, like green, makes dark-brown eyes pop—use a bright shade of blue to line your eyes, and use either peach or pink blush and lip colors with it, as bronze has a tendency to look muddy next to bright blue.

SHU UEMURA BIRTHDAY BOUTIQUE PALETTE AND LIP PENCIL

University of the East

Pep-rally pretty: You can replicate Xeng's makeup by using creamy red lipstick and white eyeshadow as an eye-safe alternative to face paint.

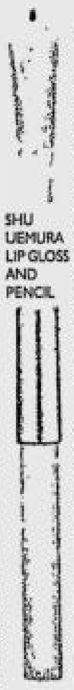
Make this wearable: Since red is a very strong color, limit it to one area on your face. Cherry-red lip gloss or light-red blush looks healthy on yellowish Asian skin, so give it a try.



LANCÔME COLOR FEVER LIPSTICK, MAC LIQUID BLUSH

MAKEUP: XENG ZULUETA OF SHU UEMURA
HAIR: RICKY DIOKNO USING KIEHL'S STYLIST SERIES
MODEL: STEPHANIE ANG

University of Santo Tomas



SHU UEMURA LIP GLOSS AND PENCIL

Pep-rally pretty: Claire Diokno used yellow and peach from this year's Shu Uemura Birthday Boutique palette to come up with gradations of warm color, and drew black tiger stripes with liquid liner.

Make this wearable: Choose a pastel-yellow color, mix it with light brown on the creases, and line your eyes with a little black liner, staying close to your lash line. Match it with neutral blush and lip color.

MAKEUP: CLAIRE DIOKNO OF SHU UEMURA
HAIR: RICKY DIOKNO USING KIEHL'S STYLIST SERIES
MODEL: [illegible]

Ateneo de Manila University

Pep-rally pretty: Show your support for the Blue Eagles with aquamarine blue and white colors on your eyes. Try L'Oreal's Color Appeal Trio in Midnight Blue.

Make this wearable: Smear a bit of iridescent white mousse on your lids and line your eyes with a bright shade of blue. Pair with a light-pink color to set off the blue.

MAKEUP: TATIN YANG
MODEL: KAT VILLANUEVA

MAC LIQUIDLAST EYELINER IN AQUALINE, L'OREAL COLOR APPEAL TRIO IN MIDNIGHT BLUE, MAYBELLINE DREAM MOUSSE

National University

MAKEUP: TATIN YANG
MODEL: ALEXEE CADIGAL

Pep-rally pretty: Tatin used blue and gold, NU's colors, to make bright dots of color on Alexee's eyes. Want to wear this to your games? Combine sky-blue eye color with gold pigment for a bright pop of color on your lids.

Make this wearable: Instead of bright thumbprints of color, you can again use liner on your eyes. Pair with neutral blush to avoid looking like a clown.

LAURA MERCIER BLUSH IN CRUSHED HAZELNUT, MAC EYESHADOW IN OVERSHADOWED

Far Eastern University

HAIR AND MAKEUP: JIGS MAYUGA OF L'OREAL
MODEL: CLAUDE VILLACORTA

L'OREAL BLUSH DELICE IN ICED CINNAMON, MAC LIQUIDLAST LINER IN AUTO-ORANGE AND GREENPLAY

Pep-rally pretty: Jigs went for a wearable but slightly avant-garde look on Claude by shading her eyelids with rich gold pigment, and lined her lower eye area with a bright-green liner.

Make this wearable: Tone it down for school by nixing the shadow and just line your eyes with copper and green. Try using a color that can double as eye shadow and blush, such as L'Oreal Blush Delice in Iced Cinnamon.

2BU! THERMOMETER

Two movies, hot snacks, Chinese meals and other things that rock our world

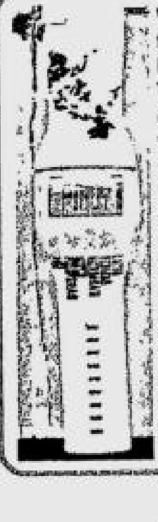
LOVEWRECKED. We love Amanda Bynes. She's young, she's pretty, she's fun, she's wholesome. She tells us that you don't have to go wild for people to take notice. And we enjoyed her latest movie, too. It was fun and funny, great for dates or a night out with your favorite girlfriends. Keep your eyes open for Jamie Lynn Discara's hilarious take on evil Alexis.

UNITED 93. The movie was gripping, chilling, touching. At times, it was difficult to watch. But we did and we're glad we did because it's a reminder of things we must never forget. Visit the website at www.united93movie.com

UAAP. Although people have said the UAAP opening was eclipsed by World Cup fever, it's time to get into the games once again.

DIP IT GOOD. A recent trip to the supermarket led to a great discovery: E-Aji Dip-snax from San Miguel Corp. What makes E-Aji really good? Each bag comes with its own yummy dip. There are different kinds of chips paired with different types of dip—Fries with Totally Sweet Chili Dip, Nachos with Fiesta Salsa Dip, Nachos with Extremely Cheesy Garlic Dip, Nachos with Groovy Mayo BBQ Dip, Ridges with Totally Sweet Chili Dip—but our favorites are Fries with Extremely Cheesy Garlic Dip and Ridges with Cheddar Cheese Dip. And the best part, each bag costs only about P15.

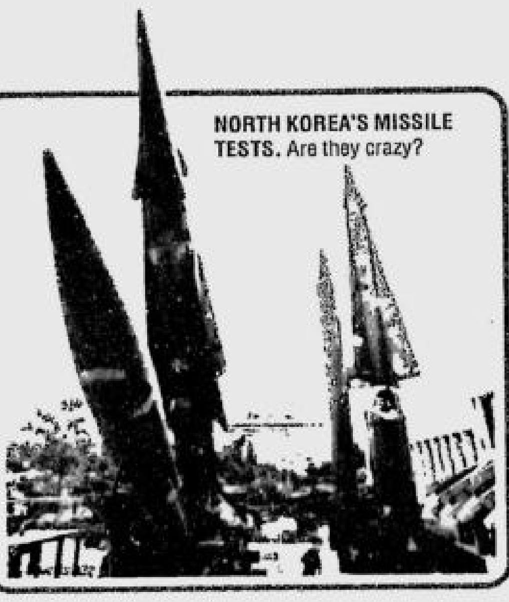
KWANG TONG'S SET MEALS. Seriously, we can eat there every day. We looove Kwang Tong's set meals. A minimum of four people can enjoy delicious dishes for unbelievably low prices. The P99 set (that's P99 per person) meal includes Yang Chow Fried Rice, Birthday Noodles, Sizzling Tofu, Kangkong with Garlic, Sweet and Sour Pork, and Buchi for dessert. The P199 meal includes Yang Chow Fried Rice, Fish Fillet with Lemon Sauce, Ho To Tai Soup, Crispy Fried Chicken, Bihon Guisado, String Beans with Minced Pork and Buchi. There are meals for P149 and P250 as well.



WEAR YOUR PRIDE. ODM invites you to wear your Pinoy Pride with a new Limited Edition watch designed by Tim Yap. The watch features an image of the Philippine islands and the words Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao on the strap and a scrolling message on its digital screen: "I am super proud to be Pinoy!" The watch was launched in Cannes, Paris, Tokyo and, of course, Manila and has been worn by D&G's Stefano Gabana, French Vogue editor Carine Roitfeld, Baron Philippe and Philippine de Rothschild, Takashi Murakami and Lesley Mobo. The watch will be available today at L Timestudio branches and selected specialty stores.

THE WORLD CUP. It's hot because the last games were really exciting and they kept us up all night. It's cold because it's over now. Do we really have to wait four years for hot kicking action again?

DREAMS will come true on Saturday, when Fully Booked, in cooperation with award-winning author Neil Gaiman, presents The First Philippine Graphic Fiction Awards Night at the Rockwell Tent. Gates open at 10 a.m. with a special exhibition of the shortlisted entries. The winners of the prose fiction and comics categories will be announced at 7 p.m. Get ready with your original masks—the best ones will win prizes. Fans may also cast their ballots for People's Choice on July 15. See you there!



NORTH KOREA'S MISSILE TESTS. Are they crazy?

THE PLANE CRASH IN SIBERIA. They almost made it. They landed but skidded. We feel for the victims and their families.

University of the Philippines

SHU UEMURA SLANT RED LASHES AND EYESHADOW
shu uemura

MAKEUP:
XENG ZULUETA
OF SHU UEMURA
HAIR: RICKY DIOKNO
USING KIEHL'S
STYLIST SERIES
MODEL: MYN REYES

Pep-rally pretty:

Xeng Zulueta combined UP's three colors—maroon, green and white—in this look by applying maroon eyeshadow under the eye area, and paired it with metallic green and white lashes.

Make this wearable:

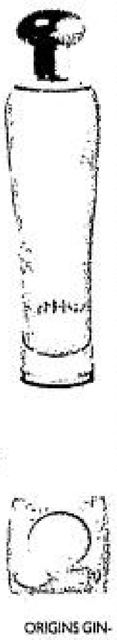
Dab a bit of dark-red lip tint on your lips and cheeks for everyday use. If you like walking on the wild side, wear maroon-colored lashes to a party or even to school.

De La Salle University

HAIR AND MAKEUP: JIGS MAYUGA OF L'OREAL
MODEL: ABBIE ALMASCO

Wear your colors to school:

Jigs Mayuga went for an understated yet eye-catching look by mixing olive green eyeshadow and white liner on Abbie's eyes. He matched it with soft peach blush and flesh-toned lip color to balance the strong eyes. Complement your green eyes with a fresh scent such as Origins Ginger with a Twist cocktail.



ORIGINS GINGER WITH A TWIST, L'OREAL EYESHADOW IN PALM TREE GREEN

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  * All demo tapes must not exceed 10 minutes.
  c. Typed lyrics of the band's original composition
  d. Any of the ff. Juicy Fruit wrapper combinations per band:

10 pcs. 1 pc. 6 pcs. 1 pc.

- 10 pcs. Juicy Fruit Jumbo
- 6 pcs. Juicy Fruit Pellet 2's
- 1 pack Juicy Fruit Stick 7's
- 1 pack Juicy Fruit Pellet 10's

2) Drop or mail entries to any of the ff.:
  - PO Box No. 2541, Quezon City
  - any 7-Eleven outlet
  - any Star Mart outlet
  - any LBC outlet
  Or log on to www.rockousticmania.com to submit entries online.

To win:
1) Submission of entries is from June 5 to Sept. 2, 2006. All eligible entries will be screened by a panel of judges.
2) There will be three separate elimination rounds which will each screen ten qualified bands:

Baguio	Sept. 30	Cebu	Oct. 7	Manila	Oct. 14

The pay-off:
1) Prizes for each of the elimination rounds are as follows:

1st place	P15,000	2nd place	P10,000	3rd place	P5,000

2) The three 1st place winners from each of the elimination rounds in Baguio, Cebu, and Manila will serve as finalists and will perform their original composition on Myx Bandarito. Viewers can participate in the selection of the Grand Winner through SMS voting and online polls, which will comprise 20% of their score during the grand finals in the Grand Rockoustic Event.
3) The three finalists will compete in the Grand Rockoustic Event on Nov. 10, 2006.
4) Prizes on the grand finals are:

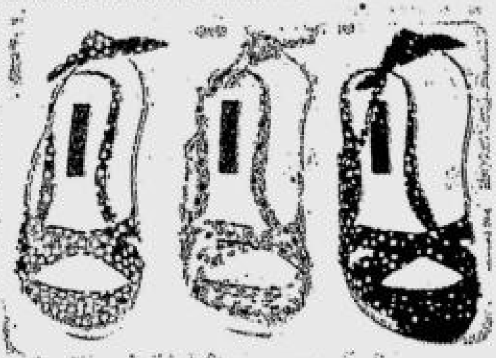
Grand Winner	P50,000	Runners-up	P20,000 each

In Partnership with

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No 0578 Series of 2006

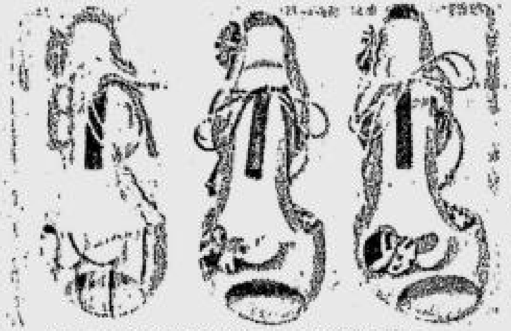
log on to www.rockousticmania.com for more details.

Juicy Fruit Rockoustic Mania



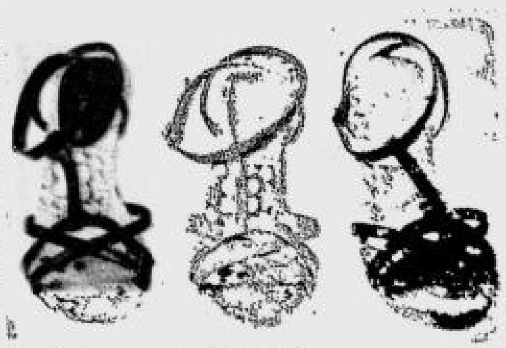
PRETTY polka. Wedges, P1,799

PAISLEY princess, P1,499

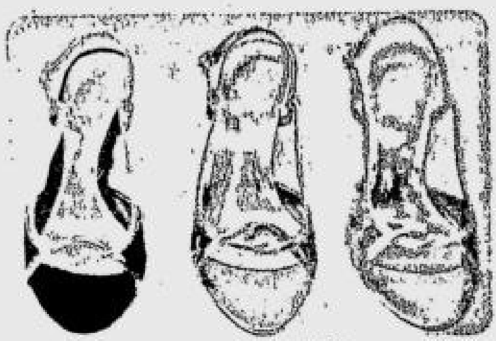


BUTTON overload, P1,899

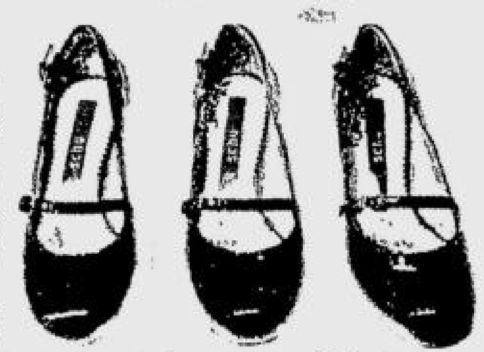
TIE ME up. Unbelievably sexy shoes, P1,799



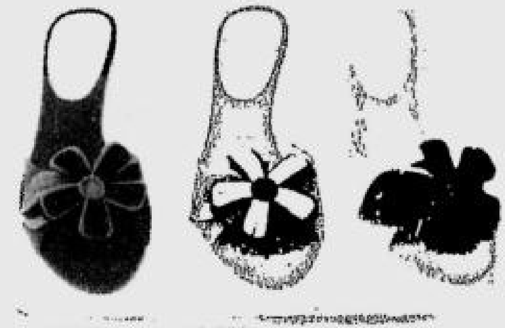
PRINTS R Us, P1,999



SHOES that shine, P1,499



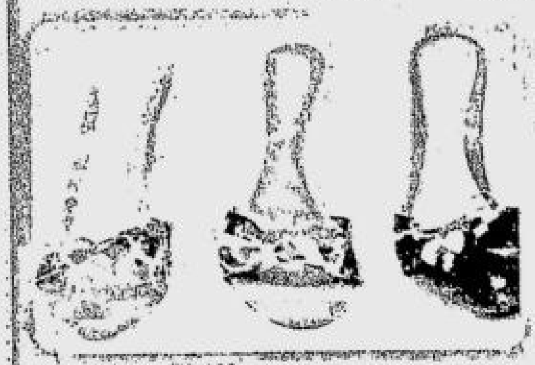
SCHOOLGIRL forever. Mary Janes, P1,899



FLOWER power, P1,599

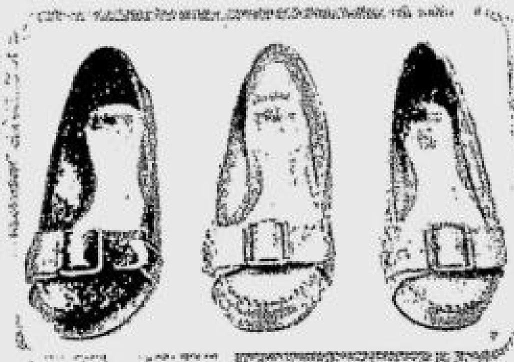
Which Shoe are you?

Pick a pair that fits your personality and it could be yours

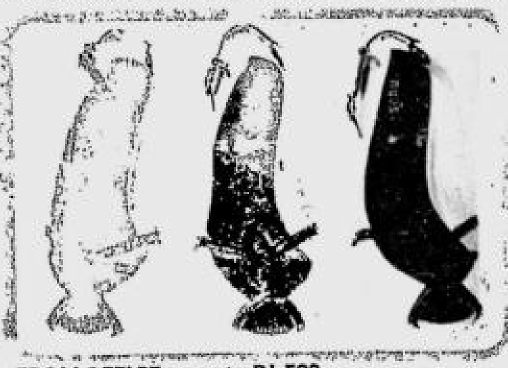


RAD ribbons. P1,699

COMFORT comes first. Slides, P1,699



BUCKLE up, P1,599



FROM OFFICE to party, P1,599

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Romy Homillada

THINGS ARE GOING well for Schu, one of the Fashion Freaks' favorite shoe stores. Its Glorietta branch is now bigger and is newly renovated, with more space to serve the city's Schuholics.

It has also opened another store in Mall of Asia and celebrated its blessing with a sinful spread from Classic Confections.

Schu's colorful new collections are also another reason to celebrate. We can't get enough of the polka dot wedges, button-embellished shoes, ballet flats with ribbons, sexy pumps, flattering sandals and sparkly slides.

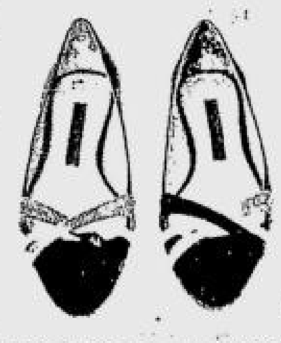
Schu wants to share its joy with 2bU! readers by giving away a pair of shoes—of your choice!

Here are five easy steps if you want to join Schu's Shoe Giveaway.

1. Check out Schu's current collections on this page.
2. Clip the article and encircle the shoe that best fits your personality.
3. Tell us—in 10 sentences or less—why you chose that shoe.
4. Seal the article, your essay and your personal information (name, age, school/office, contact info) in an envelope that would attract our attention.
5. Drop off your entries or mail them to Schu's Shoe Giveaway c/o 2bU! Lifestyle Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Entries should be in by July 20.

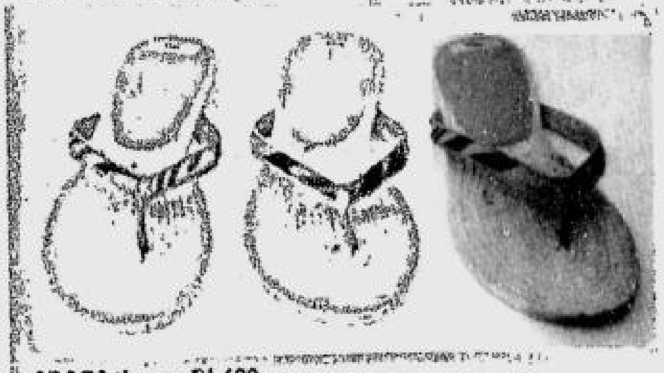
Schu has branches at Glorietta 3, Megamall, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Robinsons Galleria and Mall of Asia. Visit the Schu blogs at http://schushop.multiply.com, http://schushop.blogspot.com and http://schushop.spaces.msn.com

QUIRKY shoes are fun, P1,799



PEEP-A-BOO. Peep toe, P1,699

BUTTONS are sexy. P1,899



ABACA thongs, P1,699

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MOVE over "*pogi* rock" newbies. Sandwich's seasoned musicians still rock after almost seven years on the road.

SANDWICH
SUGOD
PHOTO COPY
LUX

Filling up on Sandwich

The band talks about its new album, former frontman Marc Abaya, eye makeup, fans and rumors of an E-heads reunion

By Irene C. Perez

IS SANDWICH STILL "FILLING" enough after almost seven years on the road? Let's see: the band has four albums, hundreds of gigs, a new guitarist, three Friendster accounts and an e-group that averages a hundred messages per day—in various dialects, at that.

Sandwich recently released their fourth album "Five on the Floor," which really started off as a pun on the "four on the floor" disco beat. Frontman Raimund Marasigan said the album "incubated" for a year and had the least time to record.

"It is a recording of the past year," he said, "a record of our year together."

Buddy Zabala, Raimund's former Eraserheads bandmate, produced the album under EMI Philippines, a follow-up to the 2004 independently released "Thanks to the Moon's Gravitational Pull."

Former vocalist Marc Abaya left the band early this year to focus on his stint as MTV VJ and his band Kjwan, so Raimund took over the singing job.

Enter new guitarist Mong Alcaraz from Chicosci and The Bitter Pill, much to the delight of female fans.

Completing the Sandwich caboodle are Mike Dizon on drums, Diego Castillo on guitars and Myrene Academia on bass, rockstar mommy to Raimund's kid, Atari.

Although these dudes also play for other bands (Mike for Pedicab; Raimund for Cambio, Squid9 and Pedicab; Myrene for Imago; Mong for Chicosci and The Bitter Pill), Sandwich is still their main dish.

The punk rock band was recently voted Best Indie Artist in the first Myx Music Awards, and was chosen MTV Lokal Artist for the month of April. The classic '80s Atari game-theme video of their second single, "Walang Kadala-dala," has gained heavy airplay on music channels.

Housemate turned bandmate

Some thought Sandwich is zilch without Marc who is considered the band leader/eye candy. But as Raimund said: "Nandiyan si Mong eh!"

"Si Mong kasi housemate ni Diego. Before, Mong jams with us 'pag wala syang gig," he said. "Tambay lang, barkada. Kakatugtog niya, alam na niya iyong songs before the album was recorded. Sabi namin, mag-Sandwich ka na para bayaran ka na rin namin."

Now, 2bU! sits with three Sandwich members as they talk about their new songs, ex-frontman Marc, fashion, eye makeup, their fans and rumors on a brewing Eraserheads reunion. Read on:

How different is the album from the previous ones?

Raimund (RM): It had the least guitars with the least distortion, with the most keyboards.

Mong Alcaraz (MA): The songs have the most backup vocals, a number of different voices.

What's your composition process like?

RM: Iba-iba, minsan si Mong magdadala ng isang buong kanta na, or minsan may lyrics ka lang, chorus, melody or concept. Minsan naman buong araw gagawa ka lang ng chorus.

Like "Resbak," pinagawa sa amin ng isang TV station para sa isang pilot na 'di natuloy, so we just included it in the album.

Minsan walang sense talaga, just words that go nice together like "Goodnight January." Classic Sandwich iyon.

Marami kaming nagagawang songs 'pag downtime—sa airport, biyahe sa van, music video shoot, inuman.

"Sugod," the first single off the album, has a great video (directed by Marie Jamora). What's the inspiration behind it?

RM: Nanood kami ng ["Pagkalas"] reunion concert ng Juan de la Cruz last year tapos nandoon sa harap iyong mga musikero—from Paolo Santos to Twisted Halo—we were like kids na pumupunta sa shows namin.

Naisip ko, "Hey, I'm going to wear my tight jeans, slick my hair back and wear my denim

FILLING/ D3

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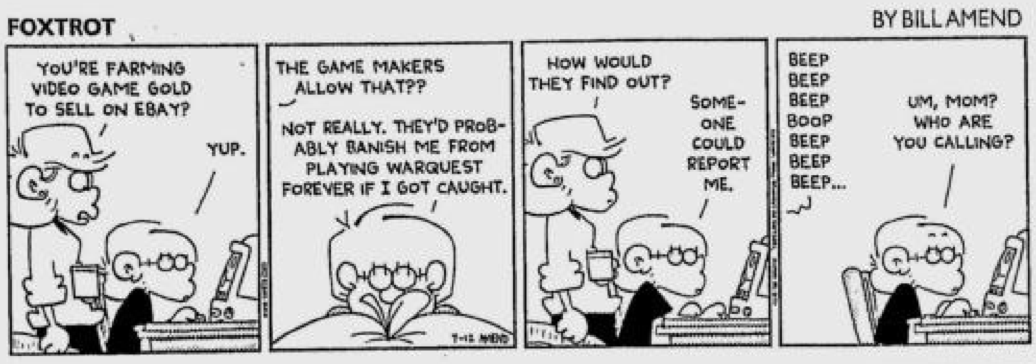
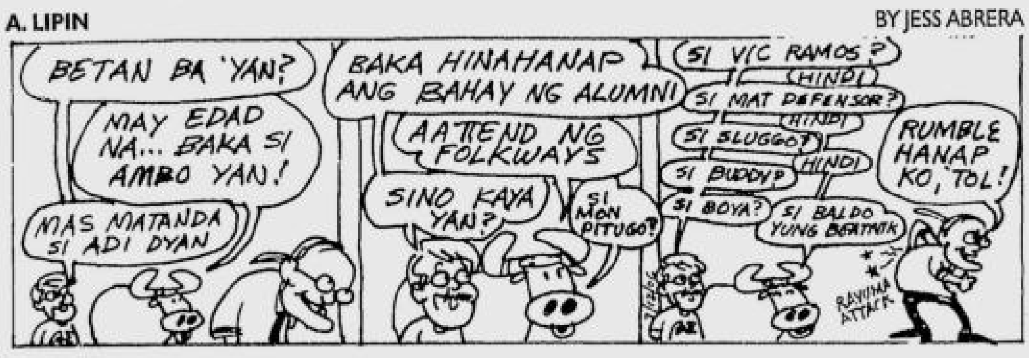
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


YOU'RE FARMING VIDEO GAME GOLD TO SELL ON EBAY?
YUP.
THE GAME MAKERS ALLOW THAT??
NOT REALLY. THEY'D PROBABLY BANISH ME FROM PLAYING WARQUEST FOREVER IF I GOT CAUGHT.
HOW WOULD THEY FIND OUT?
SOMEONE COULD REPORT ME.
BEEP BEEP BEEP BOOP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP...
UM, MOM? WHO ARE YOU CALLING?

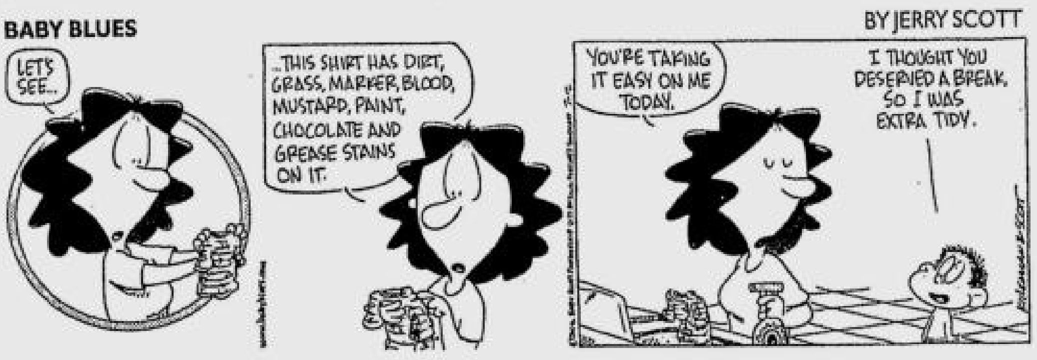
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BETAN BA 'YAN?
MAY EDAD NA... BAKA SI AMBO YAN!
MAS MATANDA SI ADI DYAN
BAKA HINAHANAP ANG BAHAY NG ALUMNI
AATTEND NG FOLKWAYS
SINO KAYA YAN?
SI MON PITUGO?
SI VIC RAMOS?
HINDI
SI MAT DEFENSOR?
HINDI
SI SLUGGO?
HINDI
SI BUDDY?
SI BOYA?
SI BALDO YUNG BEATNIK
RUMBLE HANAP KO, TOL!
RAVIMA ATTACK

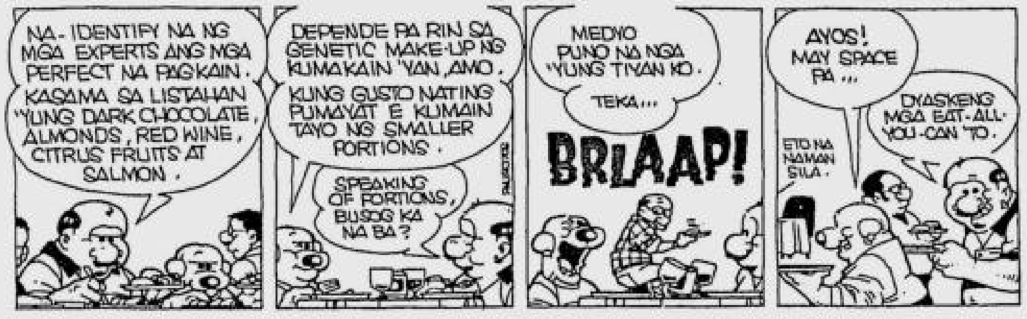
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


LET'S SEE...
...THIS SHIRT HAS DIRT, GRASS, MARKER, BLOOD, MUSTARD, PAINT, CHOCOLATE AND GREASE STAINS ON IT.
YOU'RE TAKING IT EASY ON ME TODAY.
I THOUGHT YOU DESERVED A BREAK. SO I WAS EXTRA TIDY.

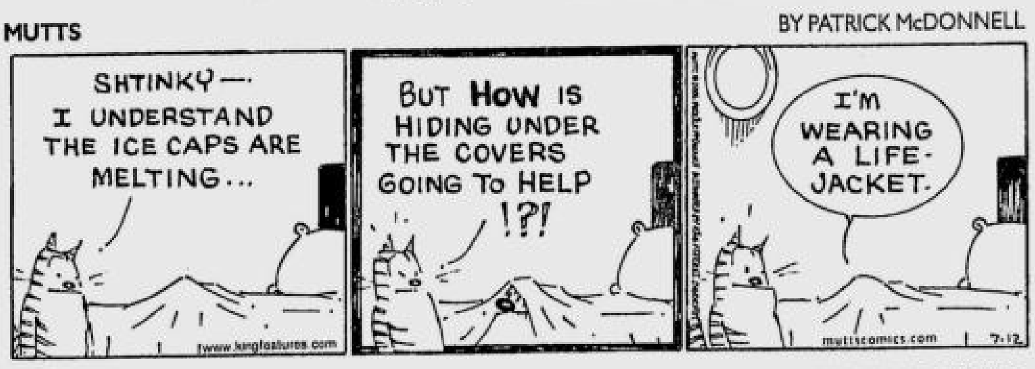
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NA-IDENTIFY NA NG MGA EXPERTS ANG MGA PERFECT NA PAGKAIN. KASAMA SA LISTAHAN 'YUNG DARK CHOCOLATE, ALMONDS, RED WINE, CITRUS FRUITS AT SALMON.
DEPENDE PA RIN SA GENETIC MAKE-UP NG KUMAKAIN 'YAN, AMO. KUNG GUSTO NATING PUMAYAT E KUMAIN TAYO NG SMALLER PORTIONS.
SPEAKING OF PORTIONS, BUSOG KA NA BA?
MEDYO PUNO NA NGA 'YUNG TIYAN KO.
TEKA...
BRLAAP!
AYOS! MAY SPACE PA...
DYASKENG MGA EAT-ALL-YOU-CAN 'TO.
ETO NA NAMAN SILA.

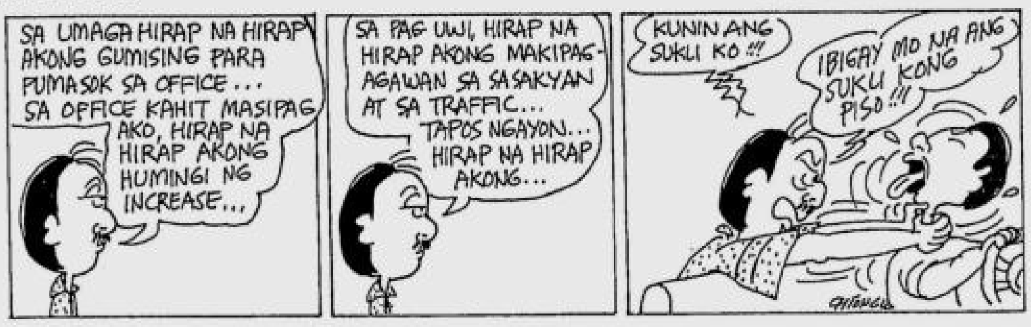
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHTINKY— I UNDERSTAND THE ICE CAPS ARE MELTING...
BUT HOW IS HIDING UNDER THE COVERS GOING TO HELP !?!
I'M WEARING A LIFE-JACKET.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
7-12

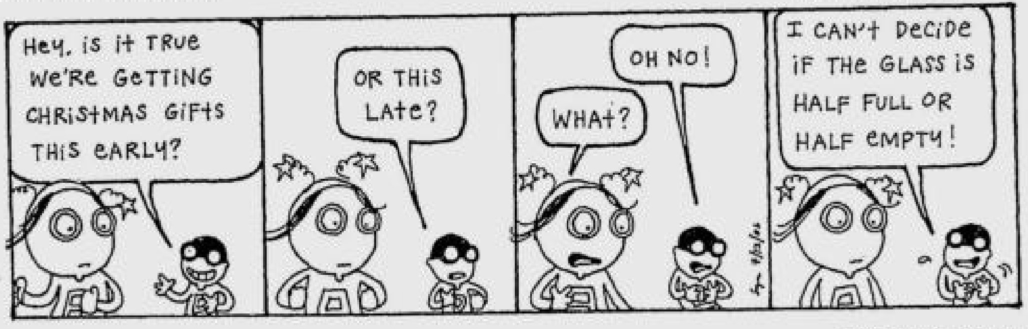
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SA UMAGA HIRAP NA HIRAP AKONG GUMISING PARA PUMASOK SA OFFICE... SA OFFICE KAHIT MASIPAG AKO, HIRAP NA HIRAP AKONG HUMINGI NG INCREASE...
SA PAG UWI, HIRAP NA HIRAP AKONG MAKIPAG-AGAWAN SA SASAKYAN AT SA TRAFFIC... TAPOS NGAYON... HIRAP NA HIRAP AKONG...
KUNIN ANG SUKLI KO!!!
IBIGAY MO NA ANG SUKLI KONG PISO!!!

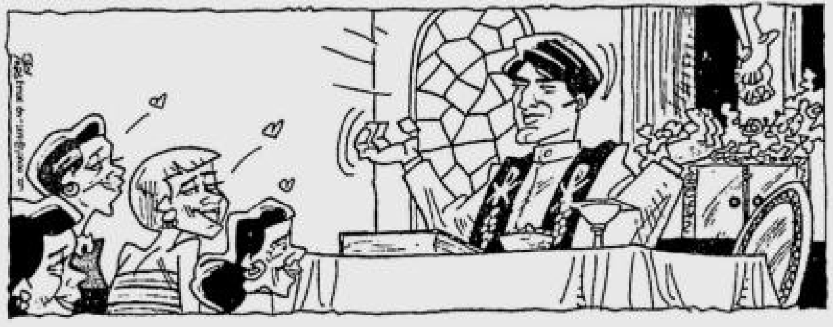
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, is it True we're Getting Christmas Gifts This early?
OR THIS Late?
WHAT?
OH NO!
I CAN'T Decide if The GLASS is HALF FULL OR HALF empty!

DIVINE COMEDY

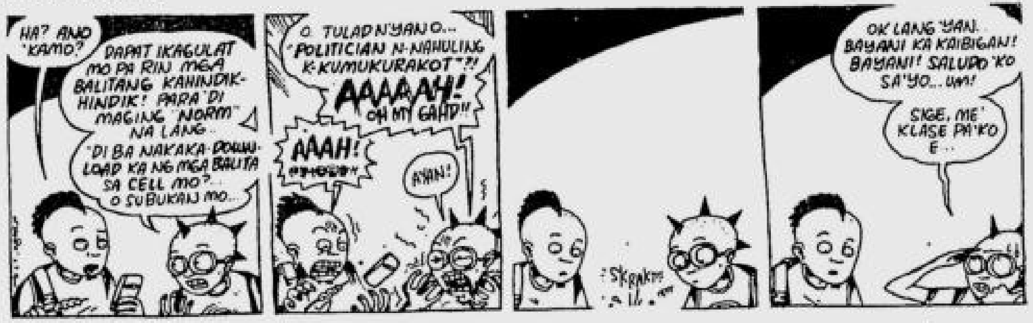
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



PARAMI NA NANG PARAMI ANG BILANG NG MGA SUMASAMBA SA SANTA CLARA CHURCH DAHIL KAMUKHA NI BRANDON ROUTH ANG PARISH PRIEST

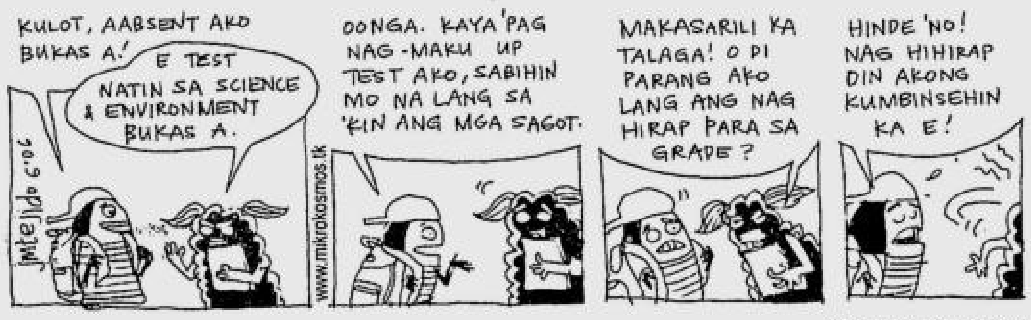
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HA? ANO 'KAMO?
DAPAT IKAGULAT MO PA RIN MGA BALITANG KAHINDIK-HINDIK! PARA 'DI MAGING "NORM" NA LANG.
"DI BA NAKAKA-DOWNLOAD KA NG MGA BALITA SA CELL MO?" O SUBUKAN MO...
O. TULAD N'YAN O... "POLITICIAN N-NAHULING K-KUMUKURAKOT"?!
AAAAAH! OH MY GAHD!!
AAAH!
AYAN!
SKRAKK
OK LANG 'YAN. BAYANI KA KAIBIGAN! BAYANI!! SALUDO 'KO SA'YO... UM!
SIGE, ME' KLASE PA'KO E...

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KULOT, AABSENT AKO BUKAS A!
E TEST NATIN SA SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT BUKAS A.
OONGA. KAYA 'PAG NAG-MAKU UP TEST AKO, SABIHIN MO NA LANG SA 'KIN ANG MGA SAGOT.
MAKASARILI KA TALAGA! O DI PARANG AKO LANG ANG NAG HIRAP PARA SA GRADE?
HINDE 'NO! NAG HIHIRAP DIN AKONG KUMBINSEHIN KA E!
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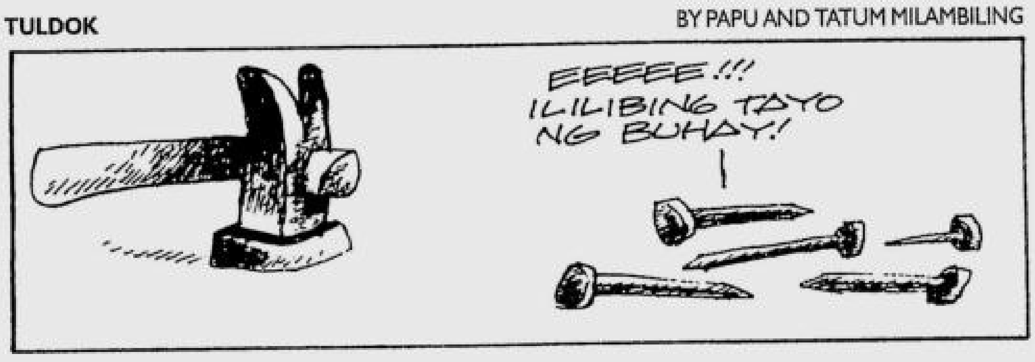
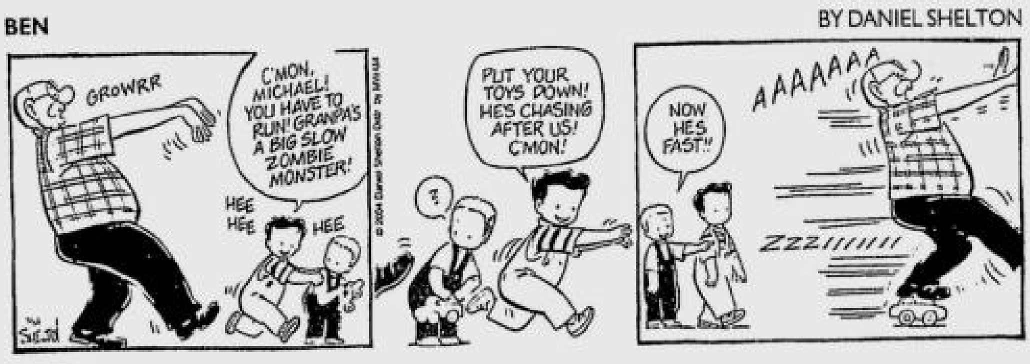
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

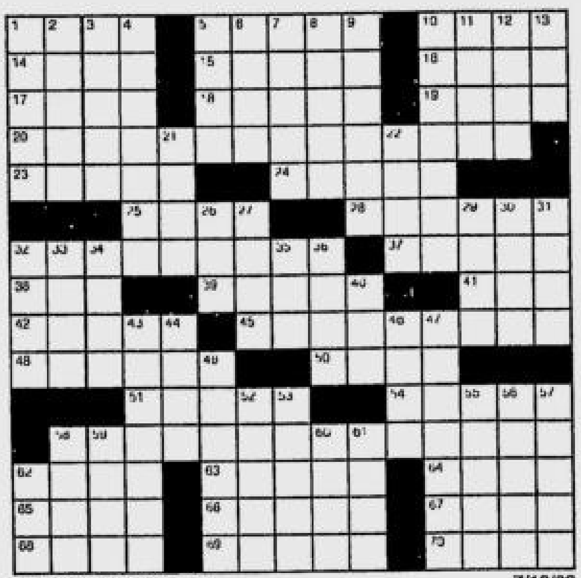

EEEEE!!!
ILILIBING TAYO NG BUHAY!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GROWRR
C'MON, MICHAEL! YOU HAVE TO RUN! GRANPA'S A BIG SLOW ZOMBIE MONSTER!
HEE HEE
HEE
?
PUT YOUR TOYS DOWN! HES CHASING AFTER US! C'MON!
NOW HES FAST!!
AAAAAAA
ZZZ

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

7/12/06

ACROSS

1 Top guns
5 Paired, like socks
10 Writer Emile
14 Singer Cantrell
15 Online transaction
16 Bahrain ruler
17 "My People" author
18 Guitar stroke
19 Nixon-Brezhnev treaty
20 Florida production
23 Prepare for knighthood?
24 Letter flourish
25 Crow's-nest site
28 Dazed state
32 Checks on car makers
37 One bound in servitude
38 Summer in Tours
39 Hub of Florida's 20A
41 Wrestling goal
42 Novelist Jong
45 Summer cooler
48 Alter a title
50 Wasteland
51 Interchange inclines
54 Accumulate
58 Experiencing fame
62 On the quiet side
63 Archibald and Thurmond
64 Neet rival
65 Iranian money
66 Levees
67 Sicilian volcano
68 New York nine
69 Financial share
70 Plant-to-be

DOWN

1 Smart follower?
2 Mountain retreat
3 Maternally related
4 Riviera resort
5 GI's meal
6 Italian wine center
7 Mountain lakes
8 Dodge
9 Objects
10 Piquant
11 __ Khayyam
12 Easter bloom
13 Creative skill
21 __-Ude, Russia
22 Makes a lap
26 __-pitch softball
27 Salsa dipper
29 Daddy
30 "Ars Amatoria" poet
31 Russo of "Get Shorty"
32 Sly look
33 Tours to be
34 Chow __
35 Kid's card game
36 Bridge feat
40 Year in Madrid
43 Monopolistic business groups
44 Eastern nursemaid
46 Soccer score
47 Weasels' kin
49 Improves by editing
52 Braid
53 City on Baranof Island
55 Type size
56 Polish
57 Famous fiddle, familiarly
58 Nastase of tennis
59 Shipshape
60 Submissive
61 Latin 101 word
62 Supply with weapons

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

G	U	E	S	S	■	P	E	A	S	■	S	H	I	N
O	S	A	K	A	■	A	M	M	O	■	T	A	L	E
P	E	R	I	O	D	I	C	A	L	■	O	B	O	E
■	■	■	P	L	A	N	E	■	D	E	P	E	N	D
A	B	C	■	U	T	T	E	R	E	R	■	R	A	Y
P	E	O	R	I	A	■	■	O	R	E	A	D	■	■
S	E	L	E	S	■	L	O	B	E	■	B	A	D	E
E	R	O	S	■	H	E	S	O	D	■	A	S	O	R
S	Y	N	E	■	E	A	S	T	■	S	C	H	W	A
■	■	O	W	E	N	S	■	■	B	A	K	E	R	S
L	O	S	■	E	T	H	A	N	O	L	■	R	Y	E
A	R	C	A	N	A	■	M	A	R	I	E	■	■	■
C	L	O	P	■	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	E	E	R
T	O	P	E	■	A	L	A	E	■	A	G	R	E	E
O	N	Y	X	■	R	E	N	D	■	S	E	A	R	S

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7/12/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're bright, intelligent and capable. When ideas excite you, you easily convey them to others. (You are persuasive!) You have a powerful personality, and you often run the show. Your fresh way of looking at things allows you to invent new approaches. Wrap up something this year that you've been involved with for nine years. It's time to move on.

Birthdate of: Richard Simmons, fitness guru; Bill Cosby, comedian/actor; Buckminster Fuller, engineer/inventor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Discussions with a female friend are important today. Perhaps someone needs to confide in you, or vice versa? Be open to others. Listen to what people have to say.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): A boss, VIP, parent or authority figure in your life figures prominently today. Listen to what is said, because others are certainly going to listen to your response. (People notice you today.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Try to do something different today. Go someplace you've never been before. Take a different route home from work. Visit different restaurants, shops and bookstores.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You need to rethink what you're prepared to do regarding your responsibilities for someone else. You have to protect your own best interests as well as meet the expectations of others.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today the Moon is opposite your sign. This means you have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. (It's no big deal—just give a little.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Do something extra to create more order and efficiency in your life today. Devote 30 minutes to this. Get rid of what you don't need anymore. De-clutter your surroundings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a playful, flirtatious day! Enjoy the company of others. Party and socialize if possible. Romance is promising. Professional sports and children's activities are also highlighted

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Discussions with a parent are significant today. In fact, all family discussions are important right now. (Show up for dinner.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You want to get down to the nitty-gritty in discussions with others today. You won't be satisfied with superficial Band-Aid approaches to anything

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good day to sift through your belongings, go through closets and decide what you want to keep and what you want to let go of. You'll feel better if you do this

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The Moon is in your sign today. This makes you more emotional about everything, but it also tends to bring you a bit of extra good luck

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You need some quiet time just for you today. You want to be buffered from the world. Sneak away for at least 30 minutes to seek out some solitude.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

7					3	6	9	1
2					9			
4					6			
5	7	6						
						2	1	3
			4					7
			1					6
6	3	8	7					4

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/12

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	2	4	3	8	7	1	5	6
3	5	6	1	4	2	7	9	8
7	1	8	9	5	6	2	3	4
1	7	5	4	9	3	8	6	2
2	8	3	6	1	5	9	4	7
4	6	9	2	7	8	5	1	3
6	3	1	8	2	9	4	7	5
5	9	2	7	3	4	6	8	1
8	4	7	5	6	1	3	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★

Filling up on Sandwich

MONG Alcaraz from Chicosci and The Bitter Pill stepped up and took over Marc Abaya's guitar tasks.

DO YOU KNOW your fave rockstar's real name? Diego is Diego Rafael Claravall Castillo; Mong is Miguel Crisostomo Pervera Alcaraz; Raimund is Raimund Emmanuel Parcon Marasigan; Myrene is Ma. Irene Dimaano Academia; and Mike is Michael Arandia Dizon

From page D1

jacket." Pagkatapos pagdating ko doon, ganoon din iyong suot ni Diego. Exactly the same! (Laughter)

MA: Parang bumata kaming lahat.

RM: We were singing along and pumping our fists, kulang na lang bandera. We thought of doing something like that for the video shoot.

'Shaun and Jopet'

A line in "Sugod" says, "I-text mo na sina Shaun at Jopet." A lot of people ask who these characters are.

RM: "Shaun" is [slang for "fashion"] *fasyown*. A wordplay on fashionistas.

Jopet is the son of Josè Sison [of the defunct '90s show "Ipaglaban Mo"]. Kasi 'pag mali siya sasabihin ng tatay niya: "Diyan ka nagkakamali Jopet."

So kunwari may sumablay, nalate ako o nakalimutan ko iyong lyrics, someone will say, "Wow, diyan ka nagkakamali, Jopet!" (Laughter)

Who does Raimund's eye makeup?

RM: I do it on my own. (Laughs) That was inspired by a show I saw in 2000, napanood namin iyong "The Cure Live."

Then around two years ago, ang ganda ng nilabas nilà na album. Sabi ko, kailangan nating mag-eyeliner ulit.

MA: 'Pag may nagpapa-autograph ngayon, eyeliner iyong ginagamit. (Laughter)

RM: May nakita si Mong after a show in SM, tinatanggal ng mga punks iyong eyeliner nila.

MA: Bukod sa eyeliner na baon, may sabon na rin sila [to remove it]. Baka, makursunadahan sila. (Laughter)

Tuna vs chicken sandwich

How different is your sound now that Marc's out of the band?

MA: It's like tuna sandwich vs chicken sandwich. Both filling, but different.

RM: Kasama pa namin [recently] si Marc, kumanta pa siya sa'min. Product launch sa Embassy and si Marc iyong host.

Si Marc naman 'pag nandiyan, pinapa-jam din namin. Pamilya naman si Marc. Kailangan lang niyang gawin iyong kailangan niyang gawin.

Mike Dizon (MD): Accepted na kasi iyong sound namin, so hindi na hinahanap na "nasaan si Marc? Nasaan si Marc?"

What are the internal changes in the band?

RM: Maraming adjustments. Si Marc, ibang-iba siyang mag-gitara at kumanta so kailangang i-divide iyong work. Kailangan naming gawan ng paraan na 'di pareho, pero iba rin.

'Sakto rin si Mong. [Like in this album], lahat ng members kumanta, it's the album with the most upfront backup vocals.

Your e-group is very active and fans—from grade school to yuppies—go to your gigs. How do you maintain the following for years?

RM: It's the same fan base. And more. Nadagdagan. Iyong mga bago, mga bata.

They even call you guys *ate* and *kuya* in the threads!

MD: May TV element din because of the videos. May nag-graduate na fans at may nadagdag.

RM: Good thing is sanay yung mga fans na modular. Like when Diego was in Singapore for weeks, or last year when Marc was in London for six months….

MD: One hundred percent pa rin kahit kulang ng isa, ng dalawa.

RM: One hundred percent iyong maririnig mo sa mga kanta, kahit medyo iba.

Last year nga, si Mong ang kumanta in a gig, nagkagulo pa rin sila! Another time, iyong gitarista ng El Mercurio nag-sub without any rehearsals.

MD: Sobrang close kami sa fans. Mga twice a year, may swimming party kami. Siguro kami lang iyong may lister's night at may swimming party.

Do you personally check and answer the mails?

MD: Yeah, I check daily, and Myrene, too.

Indie no more

After signing up for your first and second albums, then going indie for the third, why sign up under a major label again now?

RM: It was a good deal [with EMI], a really sweet deal.

MA: Kasi iyong huling album ["Thanks to the Moon"], due to budget constraints, kami iyong engineer, producer and tinapos namin iyong album sa studio.

MD: Pinag-usapan namin na wider iyong audience, so maganda kung may marketing arm.

But don't bands earn more by producing independently?

RM: Totoo, mas marami kang pera sa royalties pag indie ka…

MD: Matagal naming pinagisipan iyon. Sabi namin: "Doon ba tayo sa pera ng indie o doon tayo sa popularity na ibibigay ng major record?"

RM: Sa indie, 100 percent iyong returns mo, wala kang label eh, ikaw iyong label. Pero wala ka sa SM San Fernando, wala ka sa SM Davao.

Punong-puno ka lang sa gigs sa Manila pero 'pag may major label ka, iyong positioning mo sa buong Pilipinas.

MD: Wala kaming choice. Our label dropped us. Panahon noon na nag-drop ang labels ng maraming banda kasi iba iyong uso.

RM: Pero punk rock naman iyong Sandwich, 'di naman big deal na indie or major label. Pareho pa rin iyong amount of work na gagawin namin to promote it.

Songs on the floor

"Five on the Floor" has an interesting packaging. The sleeve is a spread of stickers, and the band has no photo on it.

RM: Priority iyong stickers ng artists [who did the cover]. It was not an artistic or rebellious decision.

MA: It doesn't mean anything, iyong huling album naman yata puro photos.

Let's talk about the songs on the album. Is the fast-beat, allitrative "DVDX" an anti-piracy piece?

RM: It's not anti-anything. More of an observation, kasi kahit saan ka pumunta—Mindanao, Greenhills, Quiapo—someone sells "DVDX."

How about "Marikina"? Is it a tribute to the city?

RM: Taga-Marikina kasi kami ni Myrene, then may show sa Riverbanks. I was with TJ (Brillantes) of Greyhoundz. Kumakanta siya ng "Katipunan, Katipunan, here we come" [to the tune of a soundtrack from "The OC" TV show].

I told TJ that I'll use the song in a Marikina gig. Then I asked Mong kung alam niya iyong chords ng "California." I sang "Marikina, Marikina, here we come." (Laughter)

There was a kid with a flag bearing the Metallica logo pero Marikina iyong nakalagay. Sabi ko susulat ako ng kantang "Marikina" after the show.

A lot of people like "Sunburn," they thought it would be the second single off the album.

RM: [Foreign pop punk group] Dead Milkman has a song, "I Don't Wanna Be on the Beach." Iyon ang sagot namin dun. Kasi last year, lagi kaming nasa beach.

MD: We wanted "Sunburn" to be the second single, kaso inabutan na ng tag-ulan. (Laughs)

MA: We're having "Walang Kadala-dala" instead as second single.

RM: "Walang Kadala-dala" is also a band thing, [it was created] sa mga inuman, sa mga redwine sessions namin.

After seven years, what more can we expect from Sandwich?

RM: We're covering "Bakit Ang Babae" for an Apo Hiking Society tribute album, arranged and produced by Mong.

What's new? A new website, new shirt designs, tighter pants… (Laughter)

MA: Groupies?

E-heads comeback?

You're working with former bandmate Buddy now, is an Eraserheads reunion in the works?

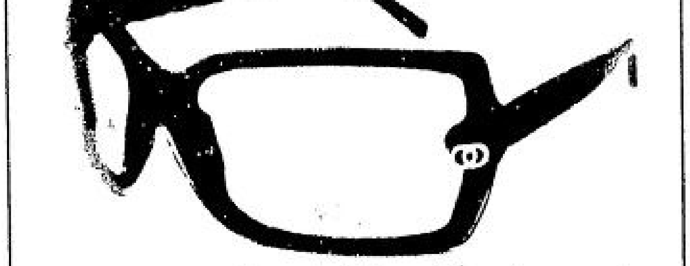
RM: Having Buddy Zabala as producer was a group decision. Gusto lang namin ng artist. As for an E-heads reunion—not in the near future.

Are there offers?

RM: Every week! And twice a week, may nagtatanong na reporter about it.

MA: We cover the 'Heads in gigs, though. Lahat ng kabanda ni Raimund, E-heads fans eh.

E-mail the author at iperez@yahoo.com



FLYWEAR, the trendy but affordable sunglasses, has opened new branches at SM City North Edsa and SM City Sta. Rosa. Now, it has 29 branches all over Metro Manila. With new celebrity endorser Isabel Oli, Flywear makes the case that it's not just an ordinary eyepiece. Its UV 400 technology also provides fashionable protection against the sun's harmful rays.

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Tuned for tunes

Nokia N91 delivers the goods, musically

By Gabriel H. Mercado
Contributor

IN THE COURSE OF REVIEWING some of the best cell phone, PDA, mp3 player, camera and combinations of those the industry has to offer, I have had the unwelcome opportunity of encountering some lemons.

Most of the time, it would be difficulty in managing a specific function, usually the mp3 player or the camera. But it can also be a feature that does not seem to be as modern as the rest of the phone, a confusing operating system, or not enough memory to store information or run processes.

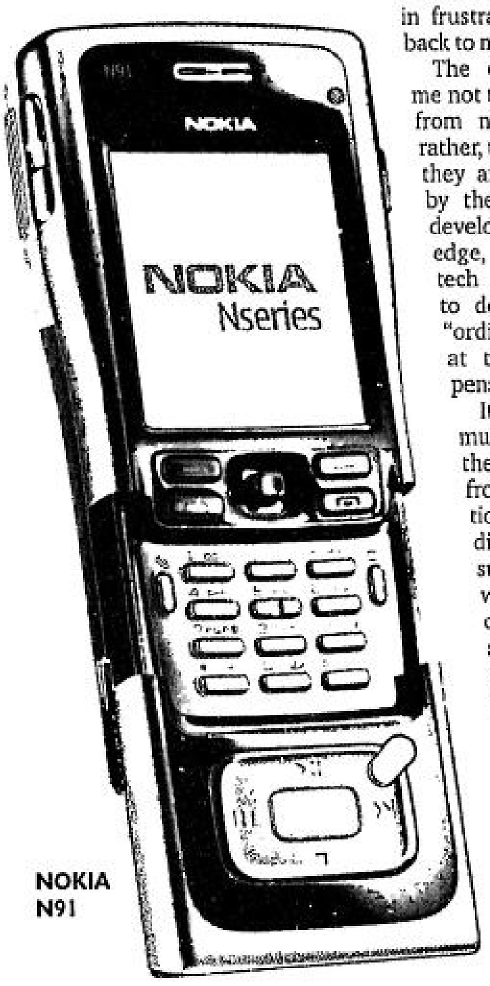
In a recent case, the situation was bad enough to render a loaner for review close to useless, as I could not even text or call someone without pulling my hair in frustration. I had to go back to my old phone.

The experience taught me not to expect too much from new products, but rather, to see them as what they are—as an exercise by the manufacturer to develop the very cutting edge, highest level of tech available, in order to develop next year's "ordinary phone," albeit at the occasional expense of practicality.

It's sort of like Formula 1 cars, which test the latest, straight from the lab innovations before use in ordinary cars. Although superior in every way, it'd be silly to drive one on the street as you'd need a team of mechanics following in a truck.

Of course, I'm being extreme, but you get the point. And such was the irony, I thought, of buying a high-end phone. One risks practicality and paying a hefty price just to get "too-cutting-edge technology."

Until Nokia N91 came along.



NOKIA N91

'Featurrific'

Let's talk about what gets everybody salivating: 4GB of hard disk-based storage, for an approximate 3,000 songs and a multi-codec music player for more hours of listening pleasure.

Bundle in a good old-fashioned (and therefore universally compatible) audio line in/line out cable and the HS-28, a special headset with remote control, and there's no mistake what Nokia is trying to do here: this is its flagship for the "phone with music player" market. Either use the earphones, or hook it up with a stereo's standard 3.5-mm port and you're playing your 3,000 songs everywhere you go.

Then there's connectivity. Common among other N-Series, namely the N70, N80 and N91, is triband functionality, along with 3G and Bluetooth. It has USB 2.0 along with my absolute favorite, Wi-fi.

For me, the ability to keep an eye on e-mail while going about daily chores without turning my computer on is a Godsend. Those like myself who worship e-mail gods Yahoo and Gmail will agree. Any phone that can hook you up by just walking past (and leeching off) a coffeehouse's free hotspot or as you park your car in the garage and get within your house's Wifi range, feels like a miracle.

If Nokia could put an RSS reader into the mix I might even reconsider buying the new laptop I've been saving for.

We round off with the camera, featuring 2MP capability and 8x digital zoom, which is, in my book, about as close to becoming actually useful as phone-cams go, and even then, strictly within the best of conditions.

Anything less is, as everyone with 1.3MP knows by now, a waste of time. Video-streaming capability, along with a bundled Microsoft Media Player v10 indicates possibilities of using that 3G connection for downloading videos. But that depends on how gracious our service providers can be.

Real-world savvy

The Nokia press release says that the N-Series phones build on the strengths of the Nokia brand and technology along with "user friendliness and iconic identification." If these were the benchmarks to base the N91 on, I would say that it has no problems with the iconic part, being a Nokia, the *de rigeur* phone of choice in the texting capital of the world.

Although a bit heavy and almost smudgy, the sleek, sliding casing helps. While I normally avoid phones with moving parts, the N91 feels solid and the slider gives a reassuring click, sans the doubt you get when you slip a piece of plastic across, which is actually what you're doing.

But what I'd rave about is how easy to use this phone is, in spite of all its tech wonders. I'd use the word "streetsmart" instead of the drab "user-friendly" to describe this phone, as everything works quickly, easily and intuitively without sacrificing practicality, all the while employing without a doubt, the "highest-tech of high-tech" available anywhere.

I'm not sure if Nokia developed an MP3 player first, then a phone second (or it's the other way around) to get this right. Or maybe that's not the way to think of it at all. I think they just made something that works either way, and works right.

ON THE OUTSIDE, looking in. Barely recognizable in dentist's duds, the author (right) assists Dr. Salinda in a mock dental checkup.

dentist for a day

Oral-B promotes proper dental care

By Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent

FOR MOST OF US, TEETH-CARE is not on top of our priorities. Sad, but embarrassingly true. Oral-B's recent event, "Dentist For A Day," showed members of the press why oral and dental hygiene is important and that observing so is not expensive nor time-consuming as commonly thought.

For starters, Ming Arroyo and Jonas Arellano of Oral-B and Dr. Jessica Santos of the UP College of Dentistry gave eye-opening talks on the status and importance of oral and dental care in the Philippines.

Trivia: did you know that tooth decay is five times more common in children than asthma? This probably stems from the myth that it's okay not to brush milk teeth, as they will eventually be replaced by permanent ones.

In our country, the staggering prevalence of gum disease and tooth decay is enough to make a dentist cry. Some families in impoverished areas are even reported to share toothbrushes, thus spreading bacteria from member to member.

Plus, going to the dentist connotes pain, fear or trauma (not to mention whopping fees) for the tooth decay-stricken majority, so they avoid those appointments even though their pearly whites have now become dirty whites.

All of these stats prove that little importance is given to combating dental problems. According to Arroyo, Oral-B aims to counter that crisis by reintroducing and promoting proper oral and dental care through their top-of-the-line products that suit people of all ages.

It's no wonder, then, that the 2006 Dentists Equity Study conducted by AC Nielsen revealed that 88 percent of Filipino dentists personally use Oral-B.

Dentist for a day

After the talk, the members of the press were given the chance to become dentists for a day, complete with white coats, face masks, bouffant caps and surgical gloves.

Fortunately for us, our "patients" (who were students from the UP College of Dentistry) took their dental hygiene lessons seriously, so we had no gruesome encounters with tooth decay during our brief stint as "dentists."

As our "dentist-buddies," Dr. Jessica Santos, Dr. Marcelle Salinda and Dr. Susana Sotelo of the faculty of the UP College of Dentistry gave us a firsthand look at how to do a proper dental checkup as well as taking the patient's oral history.

We had the "patient" rinse her mouth with a plaque disclosing solution which, as Dr. Salinda explained to our group, stains the plaque-ridden areas a darker shade of red.

Next, she showed us how to use a power toothbrush properly, which meant turning it on when it's already in your mouth so the toothpaste won't splatter.

And, instead of the usual up-and-down routine, the power toothbrush should stay put on each tooth for about two seconds, as rushing and brushing viciously will only hurt your gums.

The whole experience left me thinking twice about my brushing and flossing habits. When I think of all the plaque and dirt and goodness knows what else dentists have to deal with every day, I start to think that maybe I should make their jobs a little easier.

Besides, keeping my teeth clean and white (or maybe as close to white as humanly possible) will inspire me to smile more. Now that's a habit I could really sink my teeth into.

Some helpful tips

- Invest in a good, sturdy toothbrush. Most dentists would recommend one with soft bristles. The "good" ones are a bit pricey, I know, but it beats having to pay thousands of pesos for a root canal.
- Change your toothbrush regularly. Most models have blue indicators that fade when it's time to buy a new one. Or if yours doesn't have any, change it every three months. Also, don't forget to brush your tongue.
- Use toothpaste sparingly. No matter how much toothpaste you squirt on, your teeth will only stay clean as often as you brush it. Besides, too much fluoride can weaken the enamel on your teeth, so only put a pea-sized amount on your toothbrush.
- Have a regular brushing routine. You can start from the front or the back, it's up to you, but having a routine will ensure that you've brushed every nook and cranny of your mouth. It's recommended to brush your upper set of teeth first so the dirt falls down and is washed off later on. Make it a point to brush the back of your teeth thoroughly, as it is the area most prone to bacterial culture.
- Don't skimp on the floss. Wind an 18-inch piece on both pointers, leaving one end loose and dangling for use on other teeth. Coil the floss around each tooth in a C and rub gently so it won't hurt your gums and remove plaque better.

Angela V. Ignacio

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Times are changing. In this highly competitive marketplace, the pendulum swings away from the traditional to more creative approaches to business. Opportunities now spring from new markets, new consumer segments and new media. To remain relevant and competitive these days, we must constantly refine and redefine the way we work.

That is why the largest marketing communications network in the world takes another bold and pioneering step with the adoption of a new philosophy...

McCA

A PASSION FOR CRI

DEMAND CREATION

The concept is molded for today's demand-driven economy in a world that has become abundant in supply. As more and more companies realize that cutting cost only yields short-term gains, the most sustainable way to deliver the bottomline is by creating demand for one's brand.

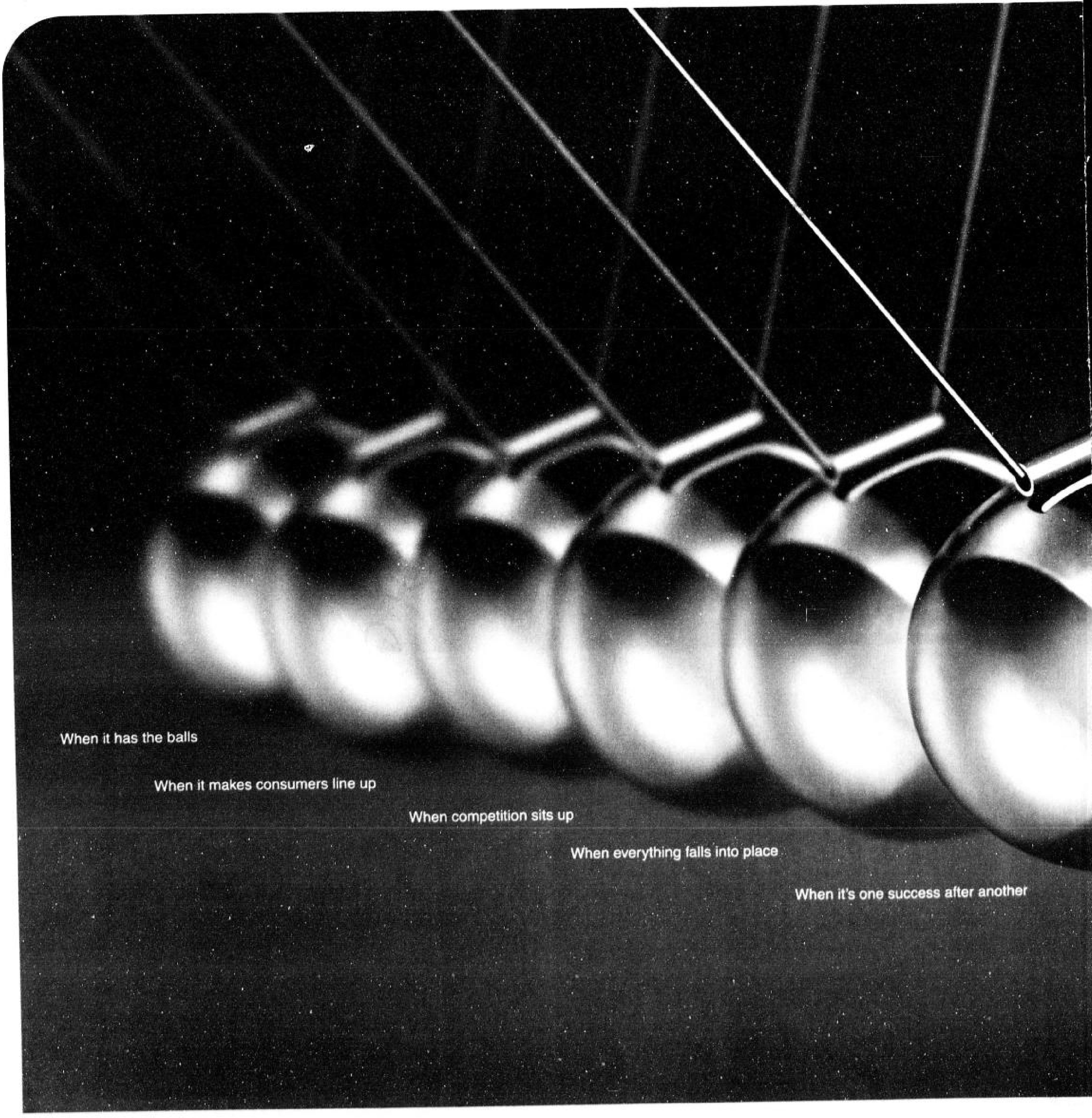
With the Demand Creation philosophy, McCann is adopting a media-neutral approach to stimulate consumer demand for marketers' products and services. The global powerhouse is uniquely poised for this as it evolves into a new organization composed of different disciplines – from advertising to media planning and buying, from relationship marketing to activation, from brand consultancy to PR and even specialized communications for healthcare. This move gives McCann an edge in the face of a channel explosion.

EINHORN IN MANILA

Under the stewardship of Eric Einhorn, Global Chief Strategist and recently appointed Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, Demand Creation is radically changing brand management paradigms and business growth strategies.

Einhorn – architect of the Demand Chain, a suite of proprietary tools designed to support the Demand Creation philosophy – will be in Manila for the McCann Worldgroup launch to talk about the Demand Creation philosophy and how it can revolutionize the way businesses compete in today's marketing environment.

Together with Einhorn, other guests from the region will also grace the launch: discipline heads **Mike Langton** (EVP Regional Director, Momentum) and **Andrew Pirie** (President for Asia Pacific, Weber Shandwick), **Rohit Sahgal** (General Manager, McCann Healthcare), **Robert Tan** (Director, FutureBrand Singapore), and McCann Erickson Area Director for South and South-East Asia **Sorab Mistry**.



When it has the balls
When it makes consumers line up
When competition sits up
When everything falls into place
When it's one success after another

ANN:
ATING DEMAND

McCANN CREATIVE HEADS MEET

Creativity is at the heart of the Demand Creation philosophy. That is why, for the very first time, McCann's Regional Creative Council will meet in Manila to assess the quality of creative work across the region and to offer advice and mentoring for many of the emerging markets. This will be attended by McCann's multi-awarded creative leaders, among them:

Jeremy Perrott, Regional Creative Director for Asia-Pacific and Executive Creative Director for McCann Tokyo

Prasoon Joshi, Regional Creative Director for South and South-East Asia

PRE-EVENT: McCANN'S LATEST LANDMARK CONSUMER STUDY

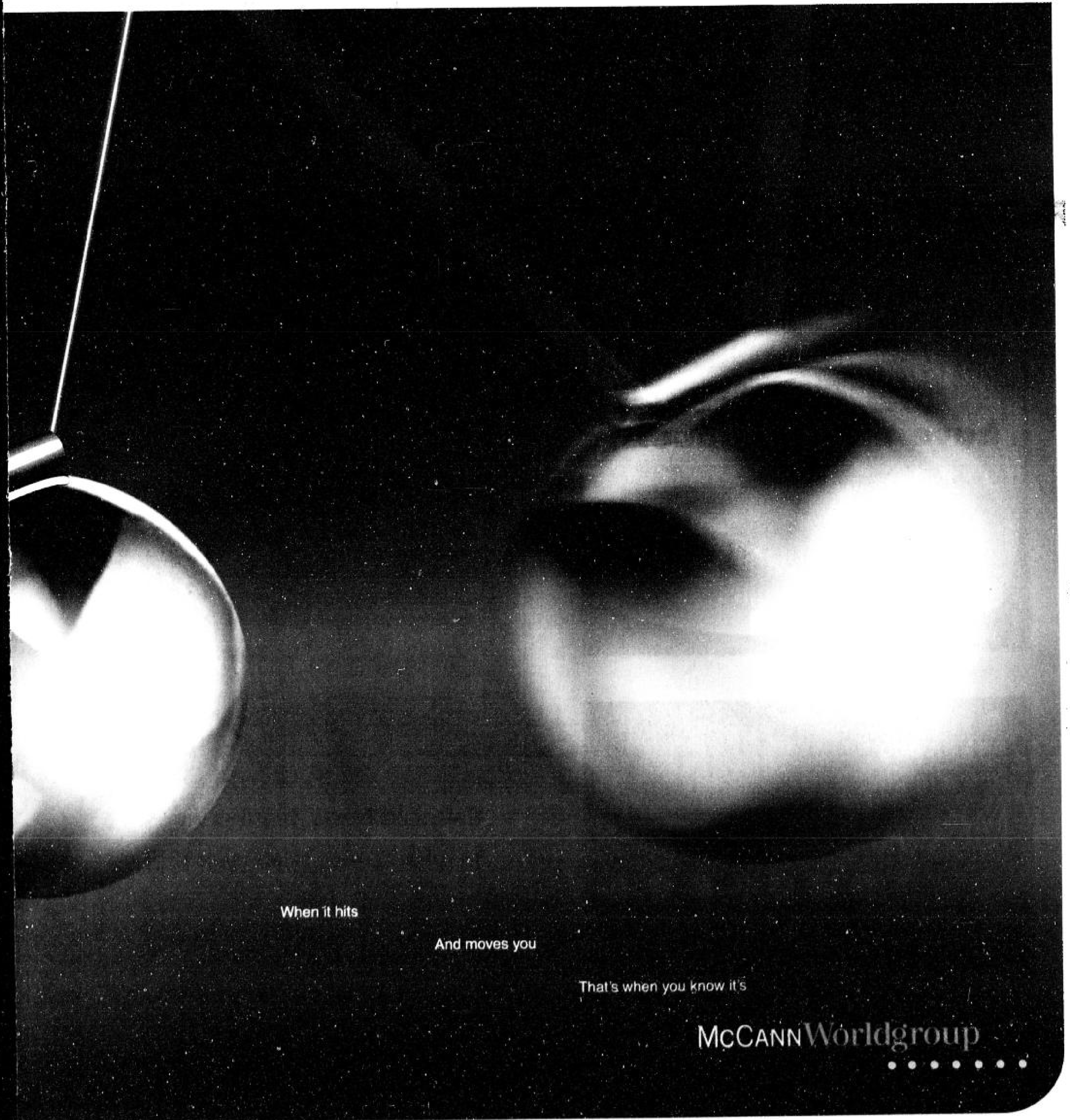
McCann has always been at the forefront of quantitative psychographic researches. Unparalled in the market, the agency's studies on the youth, Filipino male and women have benefited not only McCann clients but have also empowered various sectors of society to influence policies and programs in the academe, church and government.

This year, McCann will launch another study which does not only focus on a specific age or gender but covers a wider range of demographics. Called *The McCann Inter-generation Study*, the research compares the different generations of Filipinos living today: teens, 20-somethings, 30-somethings and those above 40.

The study, which covers all socio-economic classes, is quantitative and national in scope. It investigates the lifestyle, behavior, values, consumption patterns and other psychographics. It also includes an in-depth profiling of different archetypes of Pinoys today. McCann's latest landmark study will be presented at 4pm, immediately preceding the Worldgroup launch in the evening.

DEMAND CREATION LAUNCH IN THE PHILIPPINES

This exclusive event happens on July 13, 2006. Patricia Arches, McCann Philippines' president and CEO, will headline the event.



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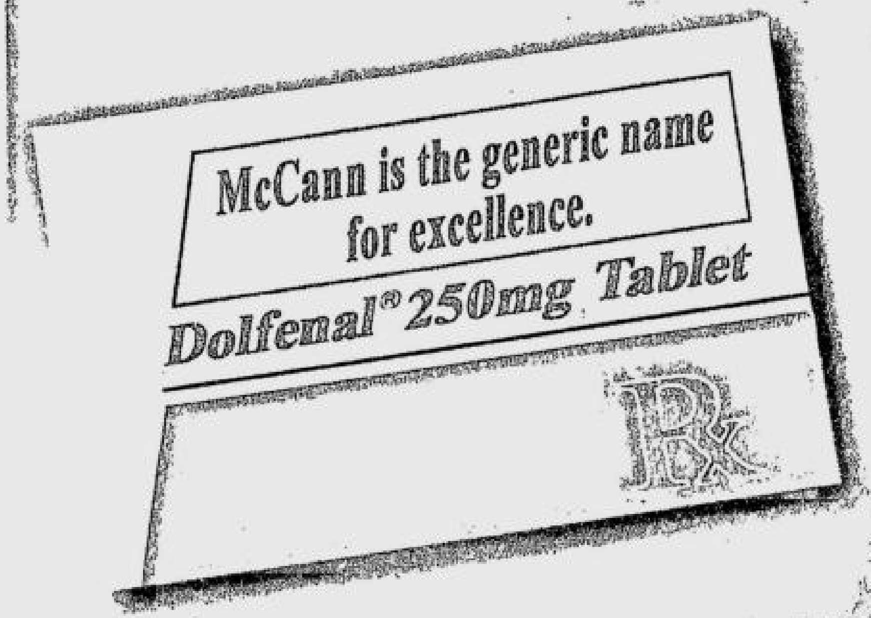
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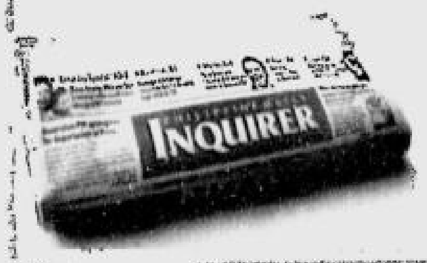

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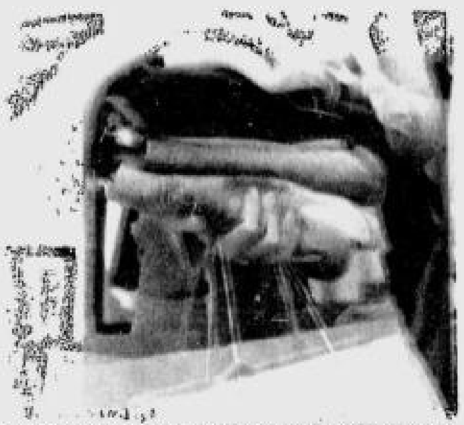

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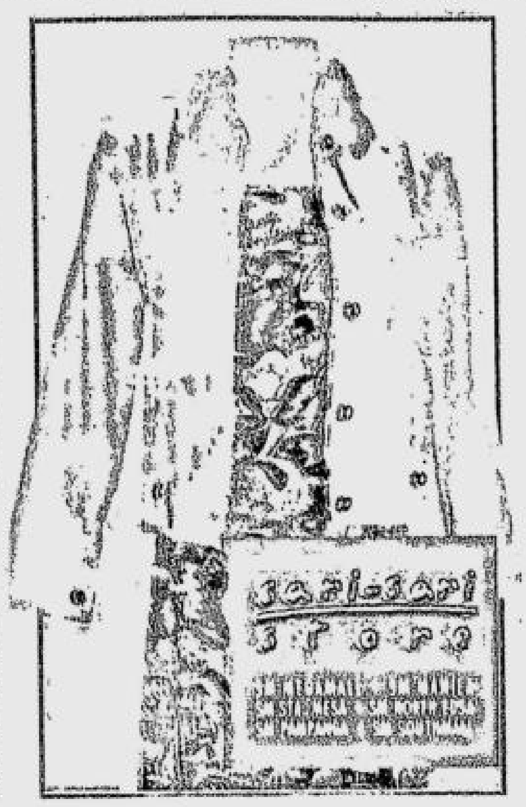

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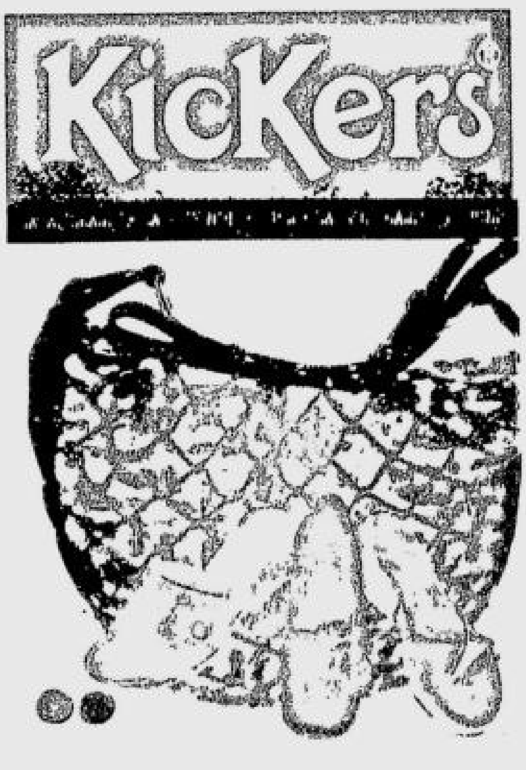

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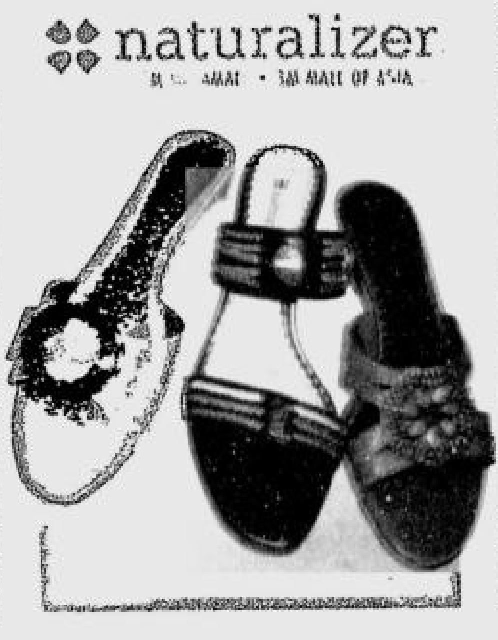
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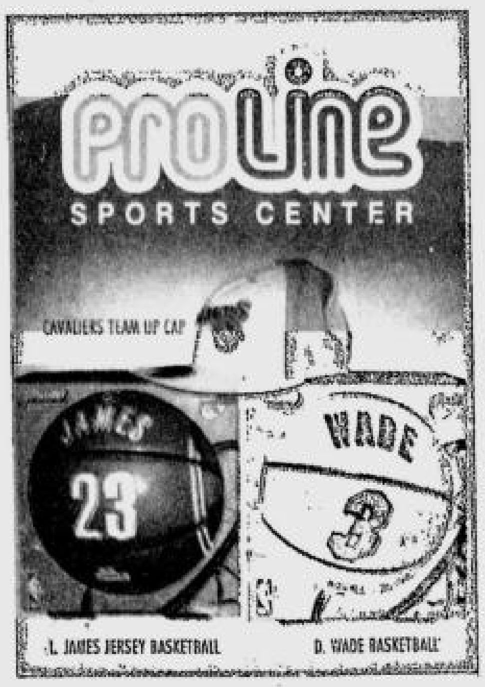
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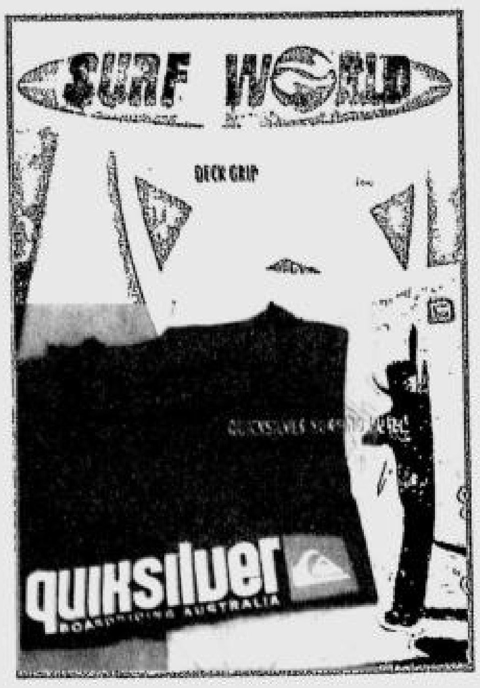
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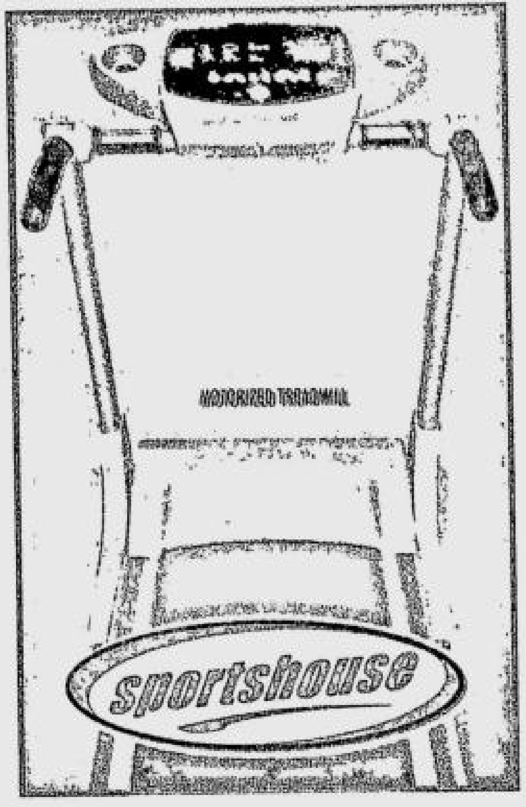
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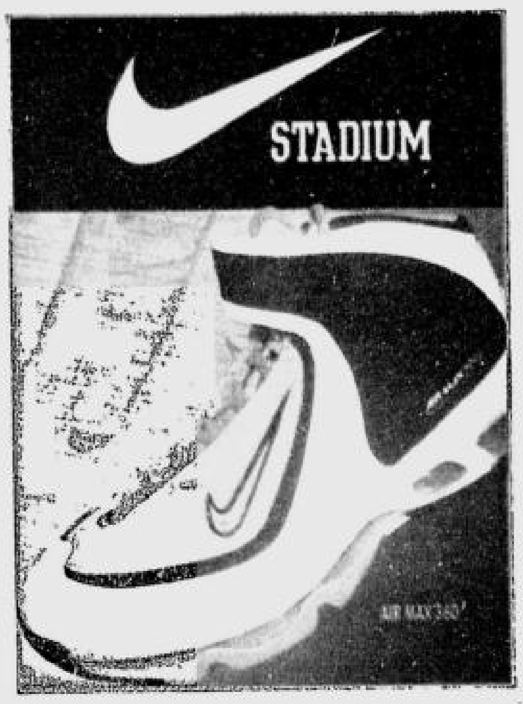
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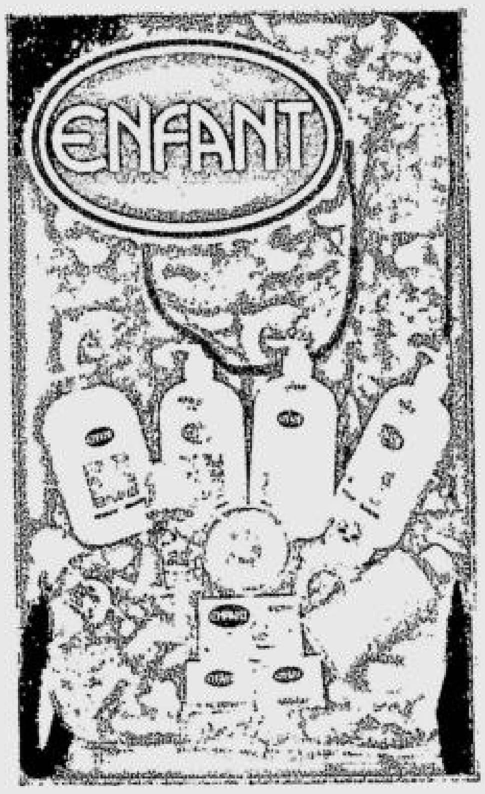

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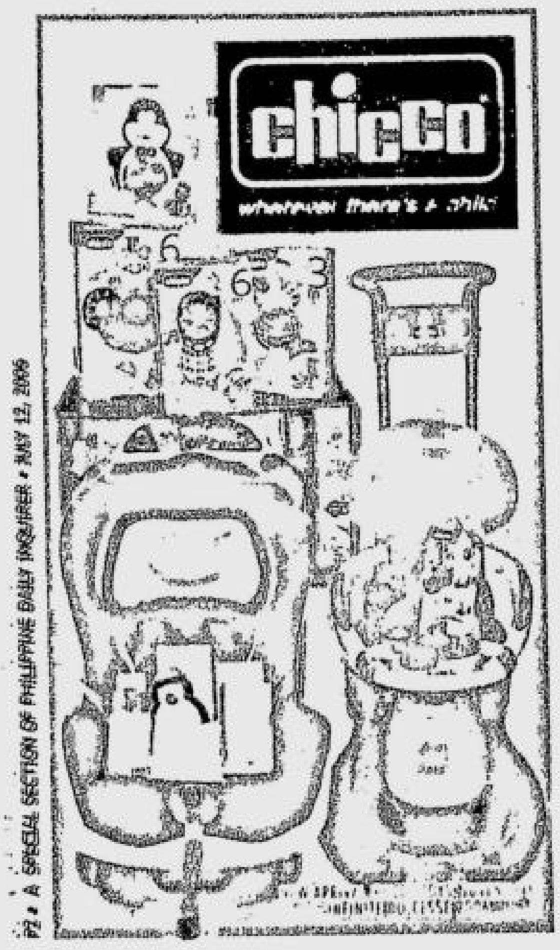
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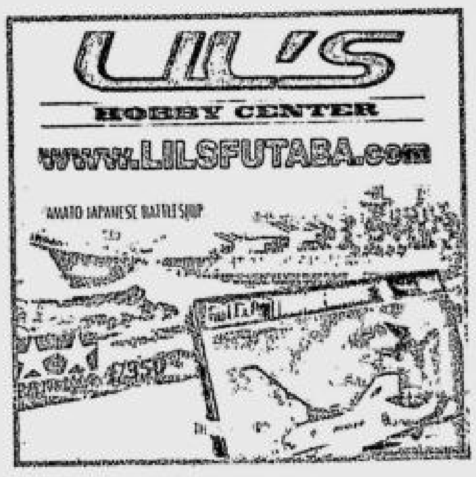
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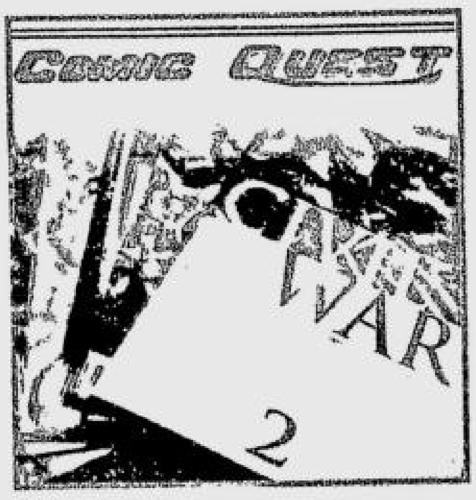
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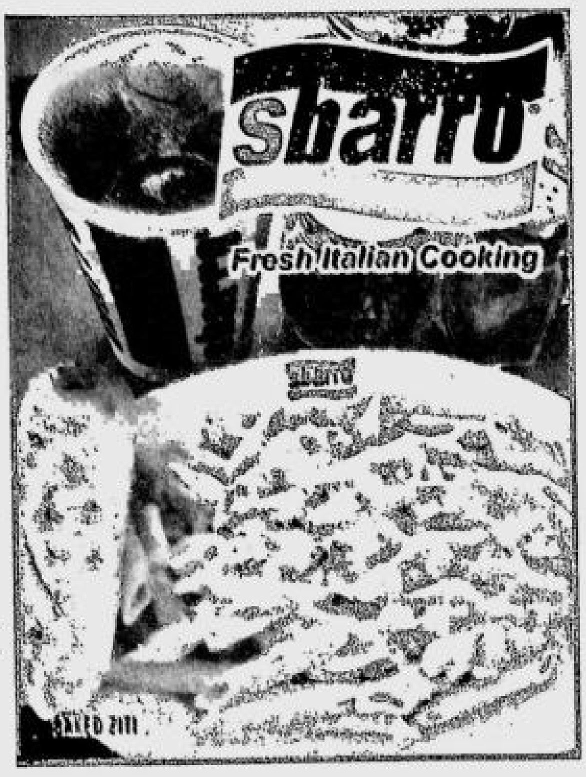

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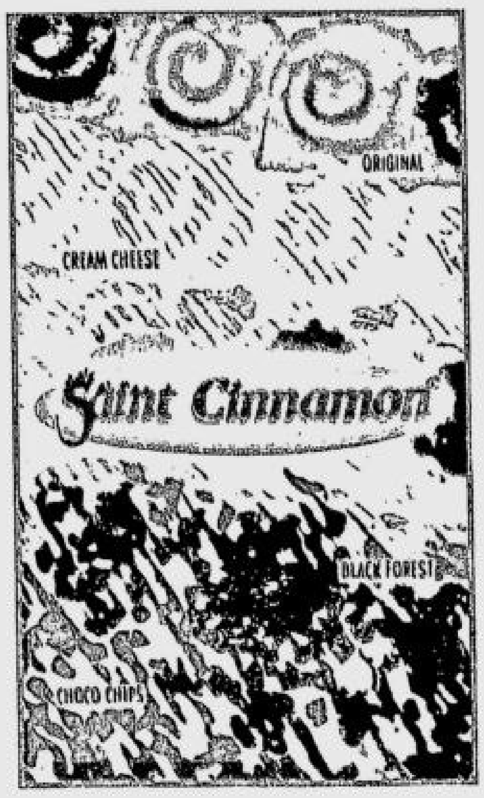

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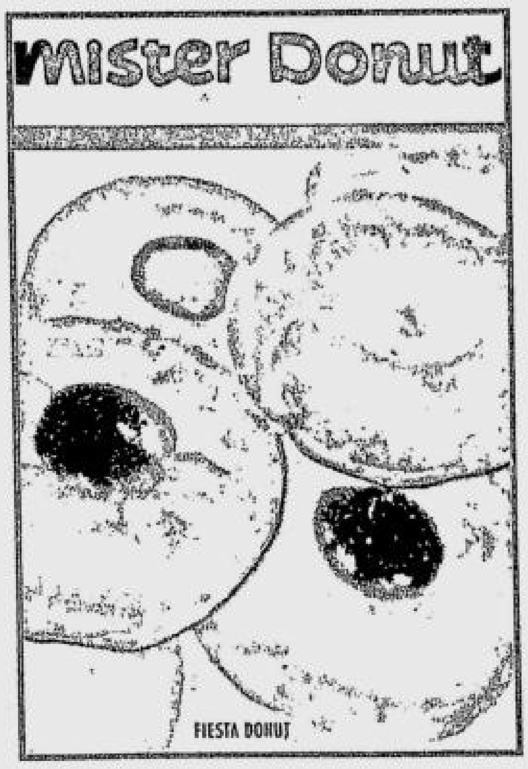

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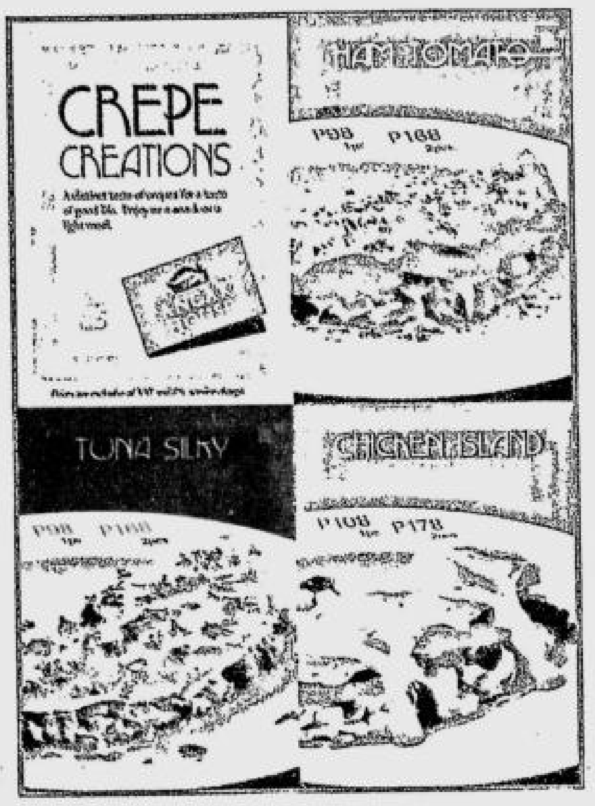

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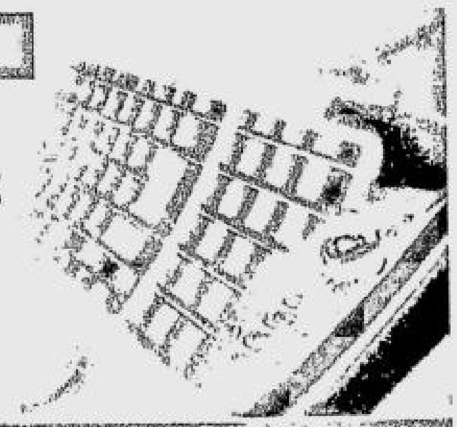

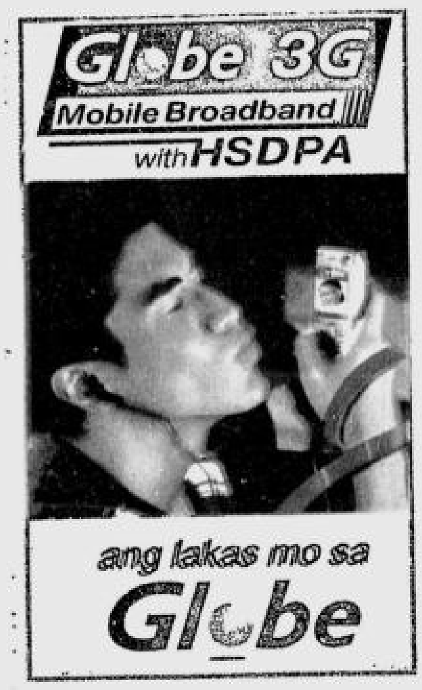
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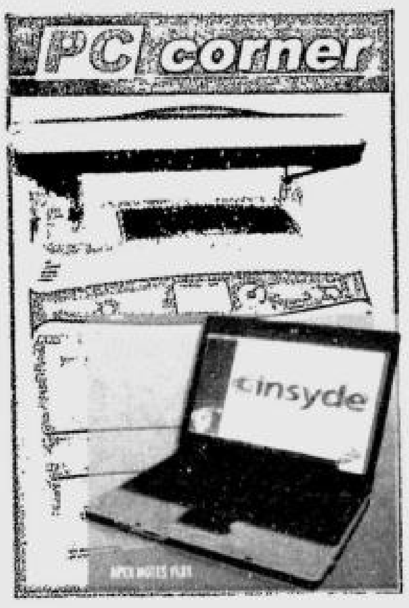
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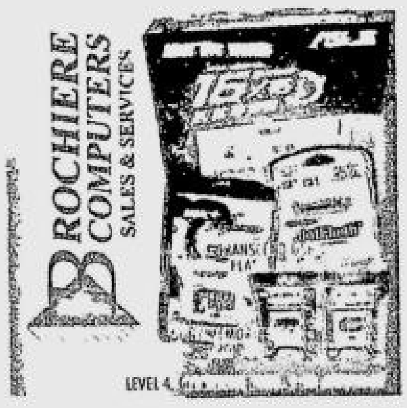
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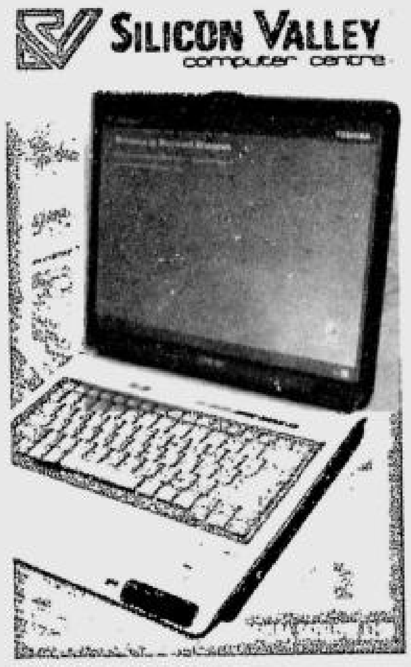
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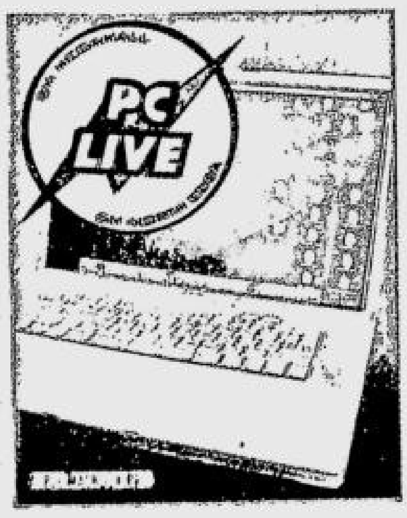
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